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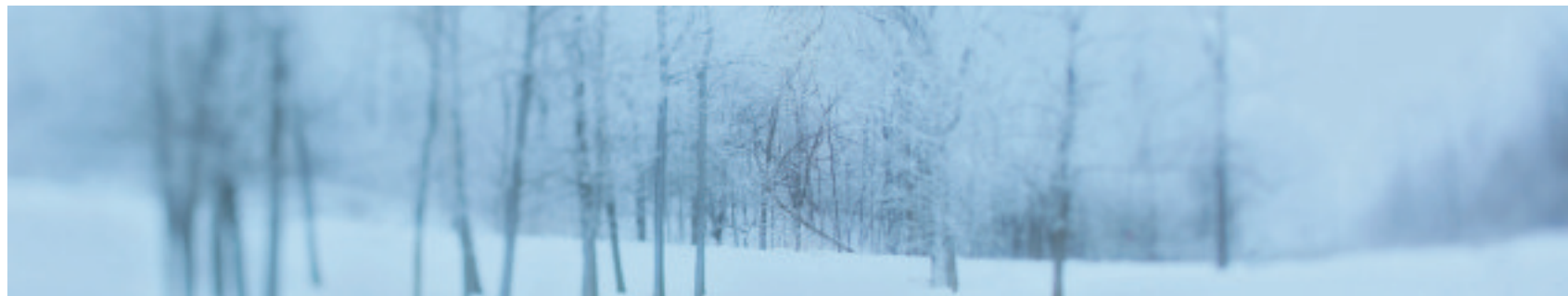
yourmaidstone

THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

yourmaidstone.co.uk



Issue No 122
Available from Wednesday,
January 27, 2010



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JOB...

Helping you make
the right choice

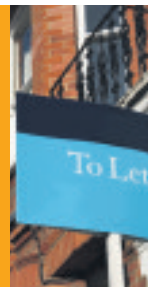
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OPEN PRISON'S LOST CONS STILL MISSING

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SAFE BUT NOT SO SOUND

East Sutton Park is an open prison which opened in 1946, as a borstal. It is described on the HM Prison Service website as 'a pleasant mansion house overlooking the Weald of Kent'. It holds both adult and young offender women in open conditions preparing them for resettlement in the community'.

It has 100 inmates in 21 dormitories. At least 25 of the women are allowed out to work or study in the local community.

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

FOUR female prisoners are still on the run from East Sutton Park Prison, near Maidstone, one of them for almost five years, Yourmaidstone can reveal.

The open prison made national headlines last year when a former aide to the Duchess of York absconded from the women's jail.

Police launched a nationwide hunt for Jane Andrews (left) who was serving a 12-year sentence for the murder of her boyfriend in 2000.

But she was picked up three days later just four miles away in a Maidstone hotel after a tip-off to detectives from the taxi driver who had dropped her parents there from Grimsby.

Today, we can reveal she is one of eight women who have escaped from the jail since 2004 – and amazingly half of them are still free.

They include killer Monique Dwyer, who has been missing since September 2006, and drug dealers Titilope Bello and Lucia Rodrigues-Taiwo, who both absconded on April 9, 2005.

Another drug dealer Oluwaseyi Ogunremi was last seen in November 2005, and was also serving a sentence for drug supply.

Detective chief inspector of Maidstone Police, Isobel Gibson, said: "When we are first notified about an absconder from a prison, we work in conjunction with the Prison Service and Ministry of Justice to create an action plan for that individual's recapture, and to ensure that any risks he or she may pose are carefully

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TOP TV CLIPS



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2 Why Gurkhas are working with a 500-year-old weapon of war at Dover Castle. **Search 'siege'**



3 Gills boss Mark Stimson looks to the future ... and back at the FA Cup exit at Accrington Stanley. **Search 'Gills'**

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS **KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION** FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Fire crew back from Haitian rescue mission

■ BY ANNA WHITE

KENT firefighters have returned from their rescue mission in Haiti.

The specialist team arrived back at their Maidstone base on Saturday morning, after spending almost two weeks searching for survivors.

The earthquake on January 12, measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale, has killed more than 200,000 residents and left millions homeless.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's team leader John Mazzey said most households had suffered three or four fatalities.

The six-strong team (pictured) arrived in Haiti on January 13 and were sent to the island's capital Port-au-Prince, where they helped several people with the UK International Search and Rescue squad.

One of the most memorable rescue missions was saving a man in his 60s who had been thrown out of his bed and ended up under it. The bed had sheltered him and the squad was able to pull him to safety after several hours of tunnelling.

The team then moved to an area nearer to the point the earthquake hit and relied heavily on the help of residents to find trapped victims.

Mr Mazzey said: "On Sunday we were sent to the town of Leogane, about 25 miles west of the capital, which was much nearer to the epicentre of the earthquake.

"We found houses that had been completely 'pancaked' and worked with local people who had either heard voices in the rubble or knew of people trapped inside.

"The reception from the local community was very good and it was excellent to be able to help, but it is important that we were not a burden to the country and so we took our own food and accommodation.

"As soon as the rescue phase was declared over and our skills and training were no longer needed, we returned home."

KFRS director of operations Steve Demetriou said: "I am extremely proud of the team from Kent and the impact they have been able to make.

The Kent crew joined 68 members of staff, two search dogs and 12 tonnes of equipments from eight UK fire and rescue services.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Drugs bust nightspot has new manager

A TOWN centre nightspot is reopening after a drugs bust forced it to close down seven months ago.

The Source Bar, in Rose Yard, is hosting its re-launch party on Saturday with a new manager.

Police discovered Class A drugs during the raid in July last year which led to the club losing its licence. It was forced to make changes before it could reopen – including banning its manager Steve Moore from the premises.

Join mass workout in record-breaking bid

A FITNESS centre is taking part in a record-breaking Aerobathon to raise funds for a leading children's charity.

The Marriot Tudor Park, in Bearsted, is one of 150 centres competing in the NSPCC's biggest ever aerobic workout in aid of its Child's Voice Appeal. The sponsored workout will be led by qualified instructors from 6-8pm on Monday, February 8. The Marriot team is running an additional session from 9.30-11.30am.

For details or to register, at a cost of £5, call 01293 651 840 or visit www.nspcc.org.uk/aerobathon.

Drink drivers banned and fined by court

ELEVEN drivers from Maidstone have been ordered to pay £3,669 in fines for driving over the alcohol limit.

They were caught during a New Year crack-down on driving offences in Mid Kent.

All 11 offenders were banned from driving for a total of 213 months with costs of £935. Some of the motorists were also prosecuted for driving without insurance or a licence and failing stop or report accident.

More than two thirds (68 per cent) of 439 people who voted in an online poll at kentnews.co.uk believe the authorities did not do enough to keep the roads safe during the recent ice and snow.

Have your say at www.kentnews.co.uk or www.yourmaidstone.co.uk - Should firms be allowed to force people to retire at 65?

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Killed for trying to stop thief

ONE of the four absconded prisoners still on the run from an open prison killed a father-of-two who tried to stop her stealing his car.

Monique Dwyer, of no fixed address, absconded from HMP East Sutton Park in 2006, where she was serving a seven-year sentence for the manslaughter of Franklin King, 35.

Dwyer, who was 18 years old at the time of the incident, stole Mr King's Mercedes at a service station near the A13 in Dagenham, Essex, in July 2003.

Mr King, from Purfleet, Essex, was fatally injured while trying to stop her and died two weeks later.

The Old Bailey heard a year later, in 2004, how Mr King and a friend had met Dwyer and her 15-year-old friend earlier that day and was giving them a lift to London when they stopped at the petrol station.

According to the BBC, Mr King and his friend had gone into the service station shop when he saw Dwyer in the driving seat of his car. He tried to stop her driving off by jumping on the bonnet.

Dwyer continued out of the forecourt, with her victim still on the bonnet, and drove across three lanes of traffic at about 40mph until Mr King fell off, fracturing his skull.

Manslaughter

She sold the car the next day, after she and her accomplice had taken photos of each other standing beside the Mercedes and smiling.

Dwyer pleaded guilty to manslaughter, and was sentenced to serve seven years in youth detention and one year concurrently for theft. She was banned from driving for five years.

Her 15-year-old friend was ordered by magistrates to serve an 18-month detention and training order.



OPEN: Cars come and go freely along the sweeping driveway to East Sutton prison

Four inmates still on run from open prison

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE assessed. We take all reports of absconders from prison seriously and investigate cases thoroughly.

"Absconder's details are circulated throughout the police network until they are found, using the same procedures as any wanted criminals."

A Prison Service spokesperson assured Yourmaidstone that the number of prisoners who abscond is at its lowest for 15 years. More than 96 per cent of inmates who abscond are re-captured and returned to a more secure closed prison, where they face an extended sentence.

The spokesman added: "Prisoners are placed in open prisons to find work, re-establish family ties, safely re-integrate into the community and address housing needs. For long-term prisoners these are essential

components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

"The risk assessment process for open conditions is stringent and becoming more sophisticated at assessing risk."

MP for Mid Kent, Hugh Robertson, demanded answers from the Home Secretary Alan Johnson at the time Andrews' absconded, and now thinks the Ministry of Justice needs to be more selective about moving certain offenders to open prisons.

He said: "It will be a matter of considerable concern to anyone living near East Sutton that four prisoners who have absconded are still at large – albeit that it is unlikely that they are still in the local area."

"It does highlight the need for the Prison Service to vet very carefully the type of inmate it assigns to East Sutton."

Artist's work to be sold for Gurkha charity

A COLLECTION of artworks by the late Tony Hart are to be sold at auction in aid of a charity for Gurkha soldiers.

The Tony Hart Retrospective auction will feature a number of the much-loved artist's works, selected by his daughter Carolyn Williams, which art lovers will be able to enjoy and possibly take home.

The exhibition will be held in the Graham Clarke Gallery in Hart's home town of Maidstone. The artist died peacefully at his Surrey home a year ago on January 18.

The Take Hart and Hart Beat presenter, who was born in Hastings Road in 1925, served as an officer with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in the Second World War before studying at Maidstone College of Art, now the University for Creative Arts.

His close connection with the Nepalese soldiers is why Ms Williams requested all profits made from the auction sales to be donated to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Hart's work will go on display at the Earl Street gallery from February 1 to February 26, where last year a plaque was unveiled for him by his daughter, following a campaign backed by Yourmaidstone.

The campaign also led to county councillor Dan Daley commissioning Invicta Grammar School student Holly Gerrard to make an art piece in the presenter's memory, which will also be on display at the auction, but is not for sale.

Bidders will be asked to complete a form, available from the gallery and the Hazlitt Art Centre box office, by 5pm on the final day of the exhibition.

Pieces will have set reserve prices, and bids will be placed in a sealed ballot box. Winners will be notified on Wednesday, March 3.

Health chief defends plan to change maternity unit

THE healthcare boss behind a controversial decision to change Maidstone's maternity unit has said that he sympathises with residents.

Glenn Douglas, the chief executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, is at the centre of unpopular plans to move the county town's consultant-led maternity services to the new Pembury Hospital.

The changes, planned for 2012, would leave Maidstone with a mid-wifery-led birthing centre for low risk labours, and mothers could have to be transferred 17 miles if a birth was to become complicated.

Despite a petition of more than 20,000 signatures against the proposal, Mr Douglas is confident that moving the services to Pembury will improve healthcare for residents, but understands why there are concerns.

Speaking to Yourmaidstone, Mr Douglas said: "I know that change is hard to accept. People are raising concerns and that's fair."

"At the moment we have to split our skilled obstetrician and paediatricians between two hospitals. That's not good for our patients and it's not good for our staff."

"By creating one big centre we can



PROTEST: Campaigners and MPs take the petition to Downing Street, and above, chief executive Glenn Douglas

ensure as many of our patients as possible are seen and treated by medical professionals who are highly skilled and experienced.

"We are trying to do our best for patients. I appreciate it might not feel like that in Maidstone right now, but the changes will improve the quality of care we are able to provide."

Mr Douglas said the decision was made to have the unit at Pembury because Maidstone Hospital is "well-served" by other maternity departments in Ashford and Medway.

The chief executive claims if the

centre was at Maidstone there would be no consultant-led alternative unit within a safe distance for mothers-to-be south of Tunbridge Wells.

Maidstone and Weald's four parliamentary candidates – Helen Grant (Conservative), Peter Carroll (Liberal Democrat), Stuart Jeffery (Green) and Rav Seeruthun (Labour) – presented the petition of more than 20,000 signatures against the changes at No 10 Downing Street on January 18.

You can read the full interview at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Share your railway tales after the snow and ice

TRAIN users are urged to share their journey experiences on a new section of a dedicated website for passengers.

The Maidstone Area Rail Users' Group is offering members the chance to give Southeastern feedback – at the request of the rail operator – on how it performed during the recent icy weather.

The section can be accessed at www.marug.org, or comments can be emailed to the public affairs manager at Mike.Gibson@southeasternrailway.co.uk, with the subject 'communications survey'.

Speeding drivers warned

POLICE issued four fines and eight warnings to drivers caught speeding in a residential area.

The operation in Sandling Lane, Maidstone, was carried out after calls from concerned residents.

Homeowners had become increasingly worried about the number of drivers ignoring speed limits, especially near the primary school.

PCSO Kim Kitterhing said the operation, carried out by a motorcycle team and the urban neighbourhood unit, was a success.

Camera attack caution

A TEENAGER has been cautioned after being caught on video trying to damage a surveillance camera.

CCTV footage captured the unnamed 18-year-old shaking the post the camera was attached to in Drawbridge Close, Shepway.

The incident took place on Wednesday, January 13.

Neighbourhood officers used the camera's footage to catch the offender.

Sergeant Andy Miller said: "I hope this serves as a warning to others – we will be watching."

Two shoplifting charges

A WOMAN has been charged with shoplifting from Marks and Spencer in Maidstone.

Jayne Collyer, 43, of Blunts Road, Eltham, was charged with two counts of shoplifting from the store in Week Street.

Collyer is alleged to have committed the offences on Tuesday, November 3, and Wednesday, December 23, last year.

She will appear before Maidstone magistrates on Friday, February 5.

Team turning up the heat on cold cases

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A SPECIALIST police team is celebrating two years of cracking unsolved crimes – including a Maidstone murder more than 20 years after the killer struck.

When Evelyn Staples was found murdered at the entrance to a farm in The Street, Boxley, in 1987, officers had an idea who was responsible but not the means to prove it.

In 2008 the case was finally solved by Kent's cold case investigation team, just months after the mother-of-one's killer had died.

The team had been formed a year earlier and with new technology to trace DNA were able to revisit unsolved murders dating back 50 years and rapes from 30 year ago.

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Withers said: "When the cold case investigation team was launched Evelyn Staples's murder was one of the cases we looked into."

"It was a high profile case, but the technology used at the time was not advanced enough to identify the murderer through DNA."

"Using new technology we were able to identify the person responsible through DNA found on Ms Staples's clothing, but unfortunately he had died a few months earlier."

"However, the offender was questioned during the original investigation."

A short time before the team began looking into Ms Staples's murder, her son – who was living with foster parents at the time of her death – called Kent Police for more information.

Det Ch Insp Withers said: "Ms Staples's son was researching his family history and although he was quite young at the time his mother was murdered, he had some recollection of being told his mother had been killed."

"He was hoping to find more information about his mother and it was rewarding to be able to tell him who was responsible for her death."

"Solving a crime is crucial to give loved ones



ON THE CASE: Det Ch Insp Dave Withers

closure and the justice they deserve."

Kent is one of the first forces in the UK to set up a cold case investigation team, made up of Det Ch Insp Withers, three detective constables and two investigating officers, who are retired detectives.

In the past, unsolved murders and rape would be dealt with by the major crime unit, but due to their workload some older cases slowed or stopped, so Kent Police set up a team to specialise in cold cases.

Work on these begins at Maidstone's headquarters with the serious case review team which looks into unsolved murders and rapes, before it is passed to the Chatham-based cold case department.

Kentish flavour to castle awards ceremony



COUNTY CHAMPION: The Mulberry Tree restaurant

A RESTAURANT is up against stiff competition in the defence of its crown as the county's best eatery.

The Mulberry Tree, in Boughton Monchelsea, was named the winner of its category in last year's Taste of Kent Awards for its fine-dining menu and is back again to defend its title.

Manager Karen Williams said the team was delighted to be in the running again.

The awards are exclusively for members of Produced in Kent, which aims to promote seasonal and local products – something the Mulberry Tree's head chef Alan Irwin is passionate about. The restaurant even grows its

own fruit, vegetables and herbs in its kitchen gardens, where the team also rear Kentish Middle White pigs.

Ms Williams said: "We would love to win again and keep the title for another year as we do champion everything about Kent, buying from within the county wherever possible."

More than 10,000 diners voted for 680 companies – the highest number of votes the awards have ever received – but there could only be three in each category.

The 12 winners will be announced at a ceremony in Fairfax Hall, Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, at the end of February.

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FIGHTING FIT: Gurkha combat engineers and castle staff with the replica trubuchet to be relocated

Catapulted into action, even if it is a tall order

■ BY NICK AMES

MODERN day Gurkhas are confronting a problem which used to confound the men-at-arms of the Middle Ages – how to get a three-tonne siege engine within sight of the walls of Dover Castle.

The Maidstone-based combat engineers have two weeks to dismantled the replica catapult – called a trebuchet – which is next of the castle's Great Tower.

They then need to carry the component parts of the wooden structure through a fortified gate, along a narrow rampart, then put it all back together again.

The unusual piece of military engineering is part of the castle's revamp as a tourist attraction and will show how such early artillery would have been deployed during a siege.

"In fact siege engines did bombard the castle when King John was at war with the barons," said Steve Lang, head of visitor operations.

"They did some damage, but only to the outer walls. The catapult was inside the castle but we wanted to move it to show visitors where it would have been during a siege."

The Gurkhas from H Troop 69 Field Squadron are usually based at Invicta Barracks, Maidstone, but for their temporary role of medieval engineers they are staying at the brigade headquarters in Folkestone.

"It is a bit of an odd task," said Staff Sergeant Man Ale.

"But is has some aspects common to other forms of military engineering. I'm confident we'll be able to fulfil the task and the soldiers are very enthusiastic about it. It is a chance to use their skills in a very practical way."

The trebuchet is nine metres tall – which is actually about one third the size of the



COMING DOWN: Gurkhas get to work at castle

largest siege engines ever constructed.

It would have been used to hurl boulders at a defensive position – and in some cases the bodies of warriors killed in action in an effort to demoralise their comrades.

The Nepalese soldiers are dismantling the structure screw by screw with the component parts taken to the new location. Detailed plans have been drawn up so it can all be put together again.

They were invited to take on the job after talking to Brigadier Iain James OBE, Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, who is responsible for administration of the Army in his role as Commander of 2 (South East) Brigade.

Mr Lang said: "We received a number of quotes from civilian companies. All said they could dismantle and move the trebuchet."

"But the Gurkhas were the only ones who said they were confident they could put it back together again."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Village vandals rampage

POLICE are looking for vandals who caused thousands of pounds of damage by smashing house and car windows in a village.

Sutton Valence residents discovered their windows and vehicles had been damaged on the evening of Saturday, January 16.

Two of the incidents are thought to have happened at about 5pm in Captains Close, where a door of a house was damaged and two windows of a Peugeot 306 were broken.

The back window of a Zafira was damaged in South Lane, and a Peugeot 306, Peugeot 406 and a Micra, all parked on Tumblers Hill, had windows smashed. Panes at Sutton Valence Hall were also broken, and at two phone boxes and a bus shelter.

Officers believe a catapult or similar device could have been used and the offenders are thought to have been on bikes.

Anyone with information should contact PC Older on 01622 604 392.

Death crash man charged

A MAN has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving and causing death while unfit through drink.

Martin Bradley Walton, of Terminus Road, Maidstone, was arrested after a two-car collision in Tonbridge Road, Barming, last year. The incident killed one of the 35-year-old's passengers, Brian Robinson, 63.

Walton appeared before Maidstone magistrates on January 18 and will face trial at the Crown Court on Monday, February 1. Mr Robinson, of North Street, Barming, was fatally injured when Walton's Saab collided with a Ford Fiesta at 11.35pm on June 15.

Our 'excellent' museum

MAIDSTONE'S historic treasures and artworks have proved popular with a panel of tourism experts.

The town's museum, in St Faith's Street, received an 'excellent' rating for 2009 from Visit Britain's visitor attraction quality assurance scheme. Borough council cabinet member for leisure and culture Cllr Brian Moss said: "This is a fantastic achievement."

Visit Britain inspectors said the museum provides a very good visitor experience with an impressive range of "varied, engaging, informative and interesting" content.

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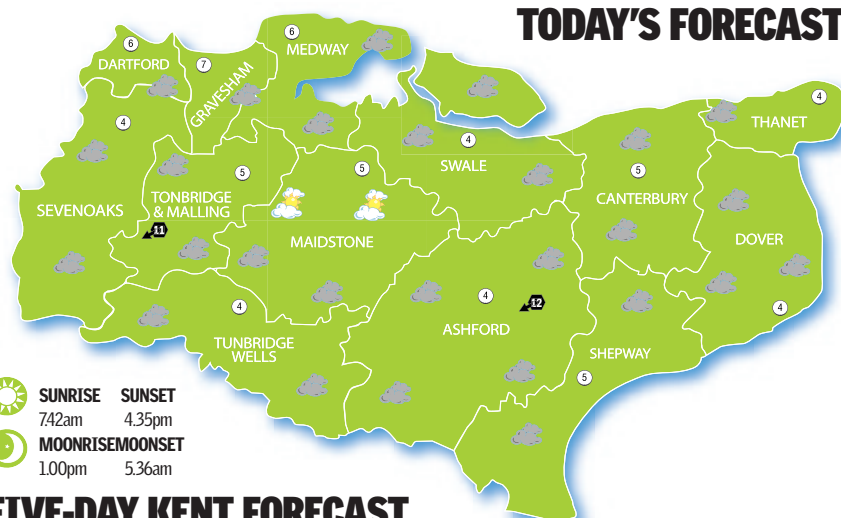
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Chatham	Saturday	12:43pm	6.2m
	Sunday	1:31pm	6.4m
Dover	Saturday	10:51am	6.7m
	Sunday	11:40am	6.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:53am	7.6m
	Sunday	11:39am	7.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:21am	5.1m
	Sunday	12:10pm	5.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:33pm	5.9m
	Sunday	1:21pm	6.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:37pm	5.4m
	Sunday	1:27pm	5.5m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-2°C	Madrid	8°C
Athens	7°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	-1°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	25°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	4°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	18°C	Warsaw	-18°C
Las Palmas	19°C	Wellington	15°C



DREAM TEAM: Maidstone's would-be Olympians are ready to take on the world's athletes in London 2012

Free gym facilities for our Olympic hopefuls

A GROUP of Olympic hopefuls can now train and practise their specific sport free at a state-of-the-art gym.

All 28 athletes who have signed up to Maidstone's Dream.co.uk – an initiative to secure sponsorship deals – have been offered free access to the gym at the town's leisure centre in Mote Park.

The membership, awarded by Maidstone Leisure Trust, which runs the centre, will benefit each athlete, whose aim is to compete in the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Cabinet member for leisure and culture, Brian Moss, said: "Once again we have gained support from another Maidstone business. This is great news for all the athletes."

"We need businesses to keep coming forward because these athletes rely on their support."

The dedicated website was set-up by the borough council, with backing from Yourmaidstone, to link the Olympic hopefuls with business sponsors to help fund their dream of competing at the 2012 Olympics.

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	3°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	4°C	Gravesend	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	5°C
Canterbury	2°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	Maidstone	3°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Chatham	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	Ramsgate	2°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	3°C
Dartford	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	5°C	Rochester	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C
Dover	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	Sevenoaks	2°C	4°C	3°C	2°C	3°C
Faversham	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	Sittingbourne	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C
Folkestone	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	Tonbridge	3°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C
Gillingham	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	Tun Wells	3°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JAMES HEMING



Q Tell us a bit about yourself

A I am James Heming, 39. I'm from Whitstable and one of the presenters on Heart's Breakfast Show with James and Gemma. I am the James bit.

Q What is your job and what does it involve?

A Officially I am a radio broadcaster, which involves entertaining Kent every morning as they wake up on Kent's No 1 commercial radio station.

Q How did you get into radio?

A It was back in 1992 that I got my first break, but years before that in my early teens I knew it was all I wanted to do but had no idea how to do it, or indeed if I would be any good. And to start with, I really wasn't very good.

Q Ten years is a landmark, what are your feelings now?

A I just can't quite believe that I have been getting up at 4.30am every morning for 10 years now. Yes, it is a landmark, but it has flown by. I mean, when we were younger I'm convinced we thought a decade was a massive amount of time. It's been like being on the radio for the whole of the 80s, just not quite as revolutionary.

Q What are your highlights?

A One main one has to be being able to evolve to keep it fresh. I never thought I would be particularly good at evolving or changing.

My boss probably still thinks I'm not, but a lot has changed in 10 years and I'm still there, so I must be doing something right. That's a highlight for me.

Other highlights would be all the amazing places I have broadcast from around the world, my favourite being Melbourne, Australia. Three blokes in a hotel, the entire Victoria tourist board at our beck'n'call, helicopter flights, after-show parties with rock bands and writing our very own Aussie soap... what a week!

Q Any big bloopers you wish to share?

A There is only one that I remember, but I genuinely think it is the only one. I got so impassioned with a subject, I accidentally included the 'F' word in my delivery. I'll never forget the looks on the faces from everyone else in the studio. I immediately apologised and most people said it was the funniest thing they'd ever heard.

Q What other broadcasting goals do you hope to achieve?

A Blimey, that's a tough one. The commercial radio industry has changed dramatically

over the past five years or so. It's certainly not a place you can make your million just by standing in front of a microphone. Once, maybe, but not any more. It's a daunting question because I still have 30-odd years of work to go and this certainly won't last forever.

I'd love to perhaps end up on a national station and do radio that involves more current affairs. I'd love to be a foreign correspondent.

Q What skills are needed to be a good radio host?

A Realise there is nothing funnier or more relatable than the truth; remember who your audience is; and check that your character is someone people will want to spend time with. Try not to be like someone else – have confidence that who you are will be appealing.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A Sleep, eat (less at the moment), watch great American TV series, go sailing and try to keep the peace among the children.

Q Anything you would like to add?

A Just a huge thank-you to everyone who has supported the show. If you weren't there listening, I wouldn't be here. I put a huge value on the fact that people choose to listen to us here at Heart, especially with so much choice around. It's extremely flattering. Thank you.

Q & A

The Heart FM DJ speaks to **Simon Robinson** about his 10th anniversary as a breakfast presenter, a trip to Melbourne in Australia which turned out to be a highlight of his career and one memorable on-air blooper

you said

we did

You were concerned about people playing excessively loud music late at night

Maidstone Borough Council work with Kent Police and other agencies to reduce noise nuisance. In the last six months seven abatement notices were served. If ignored, offenders could face a fine or have their sound equipment seized. If you hear it, report it



Kent Police



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To report domestic or commercial noise nuisance, contact Maidstone Borough Council on **01622 602202**
For actions on priorities where you live visit: **www.kent.police.uk/yousaidwedid**

Nicole opens the book on a life with cancer

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

CANCER battler Nicole Dryburgh says she hopes the sequel to her inspirational first book will give further hope to fellow patients.

The 20-year-old from Whitstable was diagnosed with cancer when she was just 11 and has since suffered a brain haemorrhage and a stroke, leaving her wheelchair-bound, blind and virtually deaf.

But despite her predicament, Nicole has devoted her life to helping others and has so far raised more than £130,000 for charity.

Her first book *The Way I See It* earned her an army of admirers when it was released in 2008, with its sequel, *Talk To The Hand*, covering the hectic months in her life that followed.

Nicole said: "I've only ever had nice comments about *The Way I See It* and I'm really happy people have enjoyed reading it. It's been out for two years now and I still get emails almost every day from someone new who has read it.

"I decided to write the second book because my first kind of ended on a cliffhanger. I was still on chemotherapy at the time and having other health problems, so I wanted people to know I'm still here and fighting.



FIGHTER: Nicole Dryburgh is inspiring many with illness

"So much has happened since my first book came out, so it's a good way to let people know how things have turned out. It's different because I'm not just telling my story, I'm sharing my advice, too."

Nicole was a competition-winning gymnast when, at the age of just 11, an operation revealed a rare type of cancerous tumour close to her spine.

Through radiotherapy it was reduced, but two years later she suffered the brain haemor-

rhage that robbed her of her sight. This was followed by a debilitating stroke that left the youngster confined to a wheelchair, and in late 2007 tumours were discovered behind Nicole's ears that have practically destroyed her hearing.

Yet despite such setbacks Nicole has devoted her life to helping others and is currently working with the Teenage Cancer Trust to try to raise enough money to fund a specialist unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey.

She said: "I enjoy organising events and coming up with different ideas of ways to raise money. I know what these young people are going through, and that spurs me on to raise as much money and awareness as I can.

"I'd also like to write more books in the future, but I'm not too sure at the moment what to write next."

Named Britain's Most Inspiring Fundraiser in 2008, Nicole acts as a glimmer of hope for young and old people alike whose lives are being torn apart by illness.

When asked if she had any advice for such people, she replied: "Yes, just to stay positive and never give up.

"I believe a positive attitude can get you through anything. Obviously it can be hard sometimes, but just look to the future and keep smiling."

Drivers get advice on cutting child deaths

MOTORISTS are to be reschooled in road safety as part of a month-long campaign to reduce the number of child deaths in Kent.

Police will visit 40 accident black spots to give advice to drivers about the importance of driving safely, while the 'stop, look and listen' method of crossing the road will be hammered home to pupils.

Officers hope the operation will lead to a reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured on Kent's roads, which in 2008 stood at 87.

A further 570 received 'slight' injuries. Acting Chief Insp Preston Chalk said the campaign came about as part of the You Said, We Did initiative, which promotes police following up residents' concerns.

Campaign

He said: "It's absolutely crucial that children are taught about road safety from a young age.

"They're often very frantic and enjoy running about, but it's important they know they can't always be like that when they're not in school.

"We hope this campaign will allow children to reflect on the consequences of running in the road and the impact it would have on their parents, friends and teachers if something terrible were to happen to them.

"Thankfully, the schools already work very hard to promote this issue, as do the majority of parents, so we are just enforcing the message."

The campaign – launched in partnership with Medway Council's road-safety team, Kent Highway Services and other partner agencies – was launched at Senacre Wood Primary School in Maidstone last week.

Concentration camp survivor's lessons about racism

BELA Rosenthal was just six months old when she was taken prisoner by the Nazis.

Her Jewish father had already been killed at the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1942 and her mother's death was soon to follow when she was struck down with TB.

Orphaned at just two years old, Bela was released from the Theresienstadt concentration camp when the Red Cross took it over from the Nazis at the end of the Second World War in 1945.

Despite having little memory of the Holocaust, during which six million Jews were murdered by the Nazis, Bela – now Joanna Millan – has clear memories of her childhood.

And to bring home the terrifying realities and pay respect to those who died, the mother-of-three gave her poignant account to schoolchildren at St John's Catholic School in Gravesend.

Her talk was timed for just before Holocaust Memorial Day, which is being held today (Wednesday).

This year's theme is 'The Legacy of Hope', which encourages young people to learn from survivors' experiences.

Mrs Millan, who lives in London, is using her own experience to push home the message about racism and tolerance to youngsters.

The 67-year-old, who has eight grandchildren, managed to survive in the Theresienstadt camp – 50 miles outside Prague – thanks to a lady called Litska Shallinger.

Knowing that the food in the concentration camp was contaminated, Litska would collect vegetables and hide them under her clothes so she could feed the young girl.

On May 3, 1945, the Red Cross took over the camp and Bela was freed, but she was not to return to her home in Berlin.

"My first memory was being put in a house by the Russians, while they decided what would happen to us," she said.

"The British government said it would take up to 1,000 children, but it took 300 in the end.

"I was flown with five other surviving orphans – it was a very confusing time. There was no family for me in Britain, so I was put in a home."

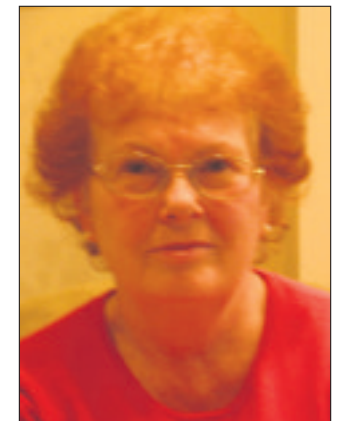
She was eventually adopted by a wealthy Jewish couple in London who changed her name to Joanna.

Eight years ago, Mrs Millan, who is chairman of the Holocaust Survivors Association, married a Jewish man and continues to have a close relationship with her own family. "I think I've tried to compensate for what I missed out on," she said.

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the 65th anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau liberation.

Karen Pollock, chief executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, which organised the visit, said: "Joanna's story is one of tremendous courage during horrific circumstances.

"By hearing her testimony, St John's Catholic School's students will have the opportunity to learn where hate and racism can ultimately lead."



IDENTITY: Bela is now Joanna Millan



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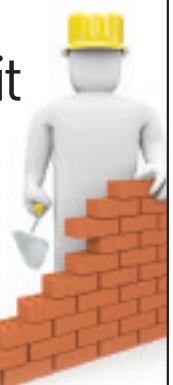


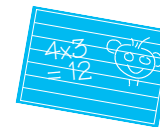
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BREAK TIME

Playgroup will be a Haven of activity

YOUNGSTERS at a village playgroup can look forward to getting new equipment to have fun and keep fit, thanks to the support of their parents.

Hollingbourne Pre-School Playgroup signed-up to a scheme which requires the support of 70 per cent of its youngsters' parents to be rewarded with sports equipment.

The pre-school hit its target and now awaits the arrival of its pack – which includes a space hopper as a bonus item.

The scheme for under-fives is run by holiday company Haven. To be in with a chance of receiving the items, pre-schools should register at www.haven-funfitness.com and then urge all of the parents to pledge their support online.

Winning students are switched on

TWO college students have been recognised for their hard work by scooping first and second place at a regional awards ceremony.

This year's JTL south east regional awards saw 11 winning electrical and plumbing apprentices assessed on their practical site-based work and the achievement of their apprenticeship framework.

Out of all the entrants, Ross Mills, a student at Maidstone-based MidKent College, was named Best Apprentice, with Phillip Hadaway, who studies at the college's Medway campus, awarded second.

The two winners' classmate, Lee Cripps, was also nominated for the category.

Young dancers step up to claim double win at event

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A DANCING duo has been crowned 'champions of tomorrow' after waltzing away from a top international contest with a handful of major trophies.

Sutton Valence School student Harry Keep and Summer Carroll, who attends Swadelands School, in Lenham, competed against other couples in Blackpool's Winter Gardens challenge.

The two soared through the junior beginners' heats of the Champions of Tomorrow competition and won both the Latin and Ballroom events – a rare achievement in the dancing world.

Their teacher Karen Day, of Grafty Dance Club, in Lenham, said: "They are the first couple to achieve the double win in this top national event, as dancers tend to be stronger in one or the other, but not both."

Harry's dad Dan Keep said: "This is a great accolade to them and their teacher and they are, quite rightly, very proud of themselves."

"It was a great achievement, especially as they have only been dancing together for about eight months."

The couple are now hoping to secure sponsorship to help their dancing career to the next level.

Harry's fellow classmates at Sutton Valence could soon be hot on his heels as the school now offers dance classes to all its pupils.

Ms Day added: "As well as learning the fun-



CHAMPIONS OF TOMORROW: Harry Keep, Karen Day and Summer Carroll with their winners' trophies

damentals of dancing, it is great exercise, helps them make friends and have fun.

"Dancing helps children develop their confidence, as well as co-ordination."

The competition was held at Blackpool's his-

toric Winter Gardens Complex, which is well-known for hosting regular dancing events.

In the past it has attracted professional dancers from the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing and a number of musicians.

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Police Chief defends E.ON security letter

Fuller impartial over public's right to legal protests

KENT'S Chief Constable Mike Fuller has spoken out against accusations he undermined the public's right to protest at Kingsnorth power station.

Speaking exclusively to KOS Media, Mr Fuller denied claims made in the Guardian newspaper that he strayed from his duty to 'neutrally facilitate' peaceful protests when he advised the energy firm E.ON to take greater steps to disrupt any future activity on the site.

The accusations relate to an incident in October, 2007, when six Greenpeace activists scaled a 200m smokestack to protest against plans for a new coal-fired power station, causing more than £30,000 damage.

Mr Fuller has been criticised for suggesting in a subsequent letter to E.ON that the German firm should seek "legal remedies" – including High Court injunctions – to scupper such demonstrations in the future.

But he told KOS Media the advice was issued to the company in response to specific concerns about security at the site.

He said: "The company was treated in exactly the same way as any victim of crime, namely we provided it with the requested advice about security."

"Kent Police has a public duty to inform all organisations about any threat to their premises."



DENIAL: Mike Fuller refutes newspaper claim

"The letter is clearly advising E.ON to improve security to prevent further trespass at a site where there is the possibility of death or serious injury to anyone entering illegally."

"As Chief Constable I have a duty to the taxpayers of Kent to avoid excessive policing costs wherever possible, and that was what the letter was seeking to do by suggesting possible solutions to E.ON."

Nicknamed the Kingsnorth Six, the Greenpeace activists were all spared jail in September 2008, when they convinced a crown court jury that any damage they caused was justified in the context of the potential damage that would be caused to the environment by carbon dioxide emissions from a new power station.

E.ON said at the time it was concerned other protestors would see the verdict as permission for them to break in and damage important power plants.

Mr Fuller's letter to the company – which was sent about eight months before the trial – states that his counter-terrorism security advisors could help the firm improve site security, and that it was "grossly inappropriate" for Kent taxpayers to foot the bill for any of its shortcomings.

He told KOS Media: "We have not attempted to make any secret of the letter and it is available for the public to read on our website. It also specifically acknowledges Greenpeace's right to carry out lawful protests."

"Kent Police has always been completely impartial about legal protests and, as the Chief Constable of Kent, I have never strayed from my duty to remain impartial when policing demonstrations."

The accusations levelled at Mr Fuller represent yet more negativity surrounding the way the force has handled environmental protests at Kingsnorth.

Last week Kent Police admitted using stop-and-search powers illegally at the infamous Climate Camp demonstration in summer 2008.

Politicians, protestors and academics involved in the rally have always claimed the police response was disproportionate to the threat posed by the activists.

MEP calls for burka ban to avoid 'divided society'

BAN the burka is the call from a top politician in Kent who says the veil has no place on the streets of the UK.

Nigel Farage is the former leader of the UK Independence Party and is a Kent MEP.

He said veils worn by some Muslim women, to completely cover the face, should be outlawed.

Mr Farage said fines could be used to dissuade women from wearing them, but policing this would be problematic.

But he insisted there are three main reasons why the burka, or full-face jibab, should never be seen in the UK again.

He told KOS Media: "I can't wear a hoodie in Bluewater, I can't wear a balaclava on the underground, and I can't wear a crash helmet in a bank – and all for good reason."

"This is especially true as one of the 7/7 bombers in London escaped because he had a veil over his face. So the security point is inarguable."

"Secondly, we believe the veils are being used as a way to subjugate women. In a society where we talk about equality of opportunity, and fair play for all regardless of age, race, class, sex, this is clearly being used to keep some women down, and there are forthright critics of this from the Muslim community itself."

The third reason he is arguing for the ban is help prevent the creation of a divided society.

Mr Farage, from Bromley, said: "All the main parties for decades have been calling for a multi-cultural society."

"And yet we are seeing a divided society of which the burka is



BURKA: Women in traditional dress

a symbol. We are increasingly seeing ghettoised towns and cities along with a rise in radicalism and even more worrying, the increasingly loud calls for Sharia law to be introduced.

"We want to live in a society that has one law that is applied equally and fairly to everybody. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams said two years ago that he saw the imposition of Sharia law in Britain's major cities as being inevitable."

"We do not agree with or want that analysis."

"The law has to apply to everyone or it is not worth a light."

The Kent Muslim Welfare Association was set up in the 70s to support its diverse Islamic community.

It said its vision is to provide a range of Islamic services for the local Muslim community in Kent, with a view to improving quality of life and enhancing community cohesion.

Anwar Khan is the co-ordinator for education and community cohesion, and he said: "It's about freedom. If women want to wear them, that is their choice and they should be free to do so."



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Is it any wonder our children just cry 'day off school' at the sight of snow when teachers set such a bad example?

The cold, hard facts about Ofsted attendance records

I LOVED the idea put forward by the county council last week that teachers should make their way to their nearest school on days when snow makes it difficult to get in.

And I was amused to hear that our teachers' employment contracts already tell them to do just that and they then had the cheek to criticise county councillors who didn't know.

Why, then, hadn't they turned up at their nearest school on snow days in line with their contracts?

Then I listened in wonder as a supply teacher phoned Radio Kent on the subject and squirmed pathetically about her colleagues' failure to do their jobs earlier this month.

She finally said yes, she would go to her nearest school... "if she could get out of her road".

Like many parents, I was again left incensed earlier this month by the ease with which

schools simply close up when there's snow... but it seems Ofsted (that bastion of ensuring standards) may actually be to blame.

Unfortunately we live in an age when teachers – who get loads more holiday than anyone else in the working world – believe that a little bad weather means they should have the day off school.

Without wishing to go on about this too much, surely if you take a job – any job – you agree with your employer to turn up on time and do the work for which you are paid.

Whether you are a teacher, shopworker or office worker, you have a responsibility to your employer.

Live too far away from your workplace? That's your choice – think about it before you take the job on. If it's going to snow, then if you live too far away, make arrangements to stay nearby – or, of course, take it as a holiday day.

But, with teachers setting their appalling example to our children, we now have a cul-

ture in Britain where snow means 'have a day off'. Fortunately our police officers, doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers still seem able to get into work when the white stuff falls.

And while you hear people say 'I can't get to work', you never seem to hear 'I can't get home' when it's been snowing. This is Britain, not Siberia.

So, back to teachers who finished their two-week Christmas break just in time for their annual fistful of snow days.

Why, you ask, do so many schools close?

Well, it seems that watchdog Ofsted may really be to blame. Attendance is one of the standards by which school performance is judged.

And if the school opens on a snowy day and children do stay at home, the school will be penalised.

However, if it closes for the day because of snow, Ofsted marks it with 100 per cent attendance.

So now you know.

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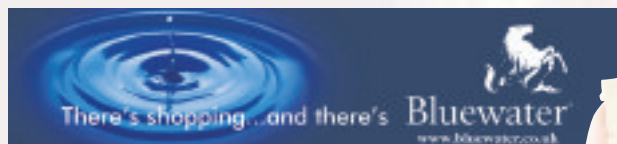
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stud collection offers a variety of shapes and sizes ranging from heart and teardrop shapes to the more classic oval design. See www.carat.cc.

Thirdly get **£100 to spend in Rigby & Peller**, Bluewater. With hundreds of beautiful haute couture products to try you will be joining a long list of celebrities and even Royalty who all enjoy the Rigby & Peller effect. See www.rigbyandpeller.com.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Bluewater Valentine's Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is February 9, 2009.

Question: How many stores are there in Bluewater?

Terms and Conditions: Entrants must be over 18. The prizes cannot be substituted for cash or any other equivalent. Prizes must be collected from Bluewater Management Suite at a mutually agreeable time. Personal Stylist session must be booked in advance and is subject to avail-

ability. Cost of clothing is not included in this competition prize.

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

For more gift ideas go to www.bluewater.co.uk. Anna Moore, Bluewater: 07980 299192; Carat, Bluewater: 01322 423000; Rigby & Peller, Bluewater: 01322 422600.



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TALK TIME

STEVE BROWN

The Kent-born wheelchair rugby champion talks about his dream for the Olympics in 2012



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Born and bred in Kent, although I worked my way around Europe for four years. I have always been a keen sportsman, although never really pursued it seriously when I was growing up. When I broke my neck during an accident in 2005, I took this setback as an opportunity to take sport more seriously. I now play international wheelchair rugby.

What does it feel like to be a successful athlete?

As an athlete you can spend months or even years training for a single competition. It doesn't come without its sacrifices, but when you win that medal or come top of the league it all becomes worth it. The harder something is to get, and the more effort it takes, the more it is worth having.

What are you working on right now?

I have two sporting goals at the moment. Short-term it's to be part of the Great Britain wheelchair Rugby team for the 2010 World Cup. I am also heavily focused on the 2012 Paralympics. Neither of these competitions will be easy but we're training hard as a team and are focused on what we want to achieve. I am also working with the Youth Sport Trust as an Athlete Mentor for the Sky Sports Living for Sport programme. In this role, I go into schools throughout Kent using my story as a platform to motivate young people to realise their ambitions.

How do schools register to have you visit?

They can register for free online at <http://livingforsport.skysports.com> to have me or another athlete, who is involved in the scheme, visit.

YOUR LETTERS

Do you know our Bradford lad Tony?

I work for Bradford City Football club and we have arranged a reunion of the team of 84/85 season. This reunion is in aid of the Bradford Burns Unit which was formed due to the Bradford City stadium fire 25 years ago. My reason for contacting you is I'm looking for one ex-player that we are informed has moved and now lives in the Maidstone area.

The player's name is Tony Clegg. He was born in Bradford and will be about 45-years-old. Other information is he was a keen cricket player within the Maidstone area. If you can help us in our quest, or know Tony, please get in touch by emailing info@worldcupwarmup.org.uk. Or visit www.bradfordcityfc.co.uk. Tony is the third from the right at the back. Fingers crossed!

Mick Shackleton, by email

Let's hope petition saves our services

The (keep maternity services at Maidstone Hospital) petition hand over went very well indeed.

All four PPC's standing on the doorstep of No10 (Downing Street), working together with local campaigners with a single purpose and no division. If this could happen a bit more it might be a way to restore in our people a little trust and confidence in their politics and politicians.

I am hoping all of the petitions end up plum in the middle of



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NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

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Andrew Burnham's desk and that they might persuade him to review this dreadful NHS Trust decision to down-grade critical services at Maidstone Hospital. We are also still awaiting the KCC Overview NHS Scrutiny

Committee report in February and hope too that this might lead to a referral of the decision to the Secretary of State.

Helen Grant, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald, by email

Thanks for positive Academy feedback

I am delighted at the public's response to the recent negative publicity about New Line Learning Academy.

The amount of positive feedback I've had this week has been amazing; from parents, from the community, from people not even connected with the school, and most importantly from students, who are really benefiting from the changes here at NLL.

When we started this Academy, we faced challenges in both attendance and attainment; last year we made great steps forward in both areas, and this year our progress is even greater. Our students are not just attending (over 90 per cent) and attaining (Year 11 have already beaten last year's figure and haven't even had main exams yet), but they're also visiting New York and China, hosting Microsoft executives, working in the community, linking with students internationally and doing so much else to become successful young adults.

I am proud to serve the community whose children attend NLL. I am proud to lead an amazingly talented and dedicated staff, and I'm proudest of all to work with the wonderful students here who now have the school they deserve.

Guy Hewett, Head of New Line Learning Academy, by email

My son is doing well at Academy

I was appalled by the BBC's

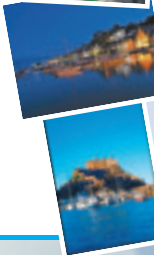
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recent report on the regional south-east news comparing Invicta Grammar School and New Line Learning Academy in Maidstone. It's ridiculous to compare academic achievements in one school against truancy rates in another.

What the report highlights is that if you cream off all the so-called brighter children at age 11 and put them into one school, then that school will do better. It's a perfect example of why the 11-plus exam doesn't work, causing social division among children and anxiety for their parents who are desperate to get them into a grammar school.

And as for truancy, surely it's the parents who are responsible for ensuring their children go to school? My son is at NLL Academy and he is flourishing there. The school is supportive, welcoming and has engaging approaches to the subjects taught, with dynamic staff and a great head teacher. I wouldn't want him to go to school anywhere else.

Sharon Amos, Harrietsham, by email

Government is off track with fare rise

Last week you carried a story to say that commuters face further fare rises on the railways.

Surely at a time when the Government is doing all it can to get people out of their cars and onto public transport, this is as counter-productive as it is possible to get.

If ministers were serious about pushing a more environmentally-friendly agenda then making it more attractive to use the railways should be at the top of the policy list?

Instead those who do avoid clogging up the roads each morning and evening are being further penalised.

Harry Edwards, by email

Cheaper train fares is right destination

The story currently being featured about an increase in rail fares shows just how far behind current thinking our Government is.

Across Europe railways are subsidised by the Government and fares are extremely competitive.

Not so here where the Government is refusing to put any more money into the network.

How can this be squared away with a commitment to reducing car usage and the consequent emissions?

Also a large amount of investment has gone into the railways with the high speed train network across Kent. This must mean that those in

charge want people to use it.

So cheaper fares is surely the way forward.

Brian Collins, by email

We were walking in a winter blunderland

As well as the roads being unprepared during the recent cold weather the pavements were left like a skating rink.

Not only was it very hazardous to drive – walking was even worse.

I lost count of the number of people I saw slipping around and a fall on a concrete pavement – even when covered in snow – is never pleasant.

Maria King, by email

Kent is Key for cricket captain

Sad to see a certain Rob Key attracted not one iota of interest from any Indian Premier League club when he put himself forward to play in cricket's most glamorous and lucrative tournament.

Let's hope he got the message – it's only Kent that wants and needs you so that's who to concentrate on.

Mike Swift, by email

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SAVE UP TO £40 ON SLUMBERDOWN MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS-TOPPERS

These Snugfit mattress toppers from Slumberdown will transform your sleeping surface, helping you to achieve a sound and healthy night's sleep.



Each topper is made from visco-elastic memory foam, which was originally developed for NASA to provide comfort for astronauts during space flights. This revolutionary foam is weight and temperature sensitive, continuously moulding to your body shape and position in bed, so your weight is distributed and supported evenly. It also helps avoid pressure points, and keeps your spine properly aligned.

Available in standard bed sizes, the 2in (50mm) thick topper simply sits on top of your existing mattress. It comes complete with a machine washable terry toweling zipped cover. The matching Slumberdown Snugfit memory foam pillow is specially contoured to cradle your head at the correct height and alignment.

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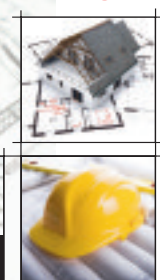
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The Leader MD electronic typewriter is fast, quiet, and easy to use. It comes with an illustrated user guide, a protective cover, and a sturdy built-in handle. It measures 12 x 39 x 36cm and weighs only 5kg.



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yourleisure

Murder on his mind

Reality TV star Lee Mead, who won the West End role of Joseph, is turning his hand to a classic comedy part

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME

Monday to Saturday, February 1-6
The Churchill, Bromley



FROM Biblical visions to dark prophecies of the future, Lee Mead is making another leap of faith.

The song-and-dance man shot to fame when he appeared in the BBC talent-search show Any Dream Will Do in which aspiring musical stars battled to become "the people's Joseph".

Mead saw off tough competition from 19 other hopefuls to win the title role in Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in 2007 and he played the character to packed houses until early last year.

His debut solo album, Nothing Else Matters, sold almost 200,000 copies and he recently released his second album. But now he returns to the stage to take on the lead role in the witty Oscar Wilde comedy Lord Arthur Savile's Crime which sees him dealing with very different predictions of the future.

Lord Arthur Savile enjoys a privileged position in life and could hardly be happier – he is considered a pillar of Victorian society and is looking forward to getting married. With the lovely Sybil Merton promised as his bride, the future looks bright for the wealthy young man.

However, things take a dark turn when Lord Arthur is introduced to a clairvoyant by the name of Podgers who announces that the nobleman will commit a murder at some time in his future.

Haunted by the prophecy and desperate to protect his bride-to-be, Lord Arthur decides to carry out the deed before he marries. So begins a hunt for the perfect victim, but murder turns out to be more difficult than he had anticipated.

Mead is joined on stage by popular entertainer Gary Wilmot, who has recently appeared in a national tour of Chicago and starred in West End productions of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Copacabana and Me & My Girl.

Dynasty star Kate O'Mara brings a touch of glamour to the cast, having also starred in television shows such as Howard's Way and Bad Girls.

David Ross has appeared in comedies such as The Green Green Grass, Red Dwarf and Goodnight Sweetheart, while Darren Nesbitt is best known for his roles in TV drama Special Branch and the classic film Where Eagles Dare.

To book tickets, phone the box office on 0844 871 7620 or alternatively visit the website at www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley.



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THE REVENGE OF RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Friday, January 29
Lenham Community Centre

MUSIC and comedy combine in The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin.

This clever show-within-a-show from Miracle Theatre Company is a high-energy production which revisits the heyday of Georgian theatre. The year is 1830 and the Ffitch Repertory Players have ambitions to bring the glamour of pantomime to ordinary folk. With their lavish production, The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin, they hope to entertain provincial audiences. Armed with a handsome prince, a scary fairy and a few mechanical swans, success looks certain.

However, this group of neurotic thespians cannot escape drama, with the prince proving that he cannot be trusted with scissors



and tantrums behind the scenes. Visiting venues in Kent as part of Applause Rural Touring's spring season, The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin is a rich and multi-layered show that is

full of laughter and wonder.

The show starts at 4pm and tickets cost £5/£3.50 or £15 for families. To book email admin@avenuetheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01795 471140.

DIANA JONES

Monday, February 1
Breeze Bar, Maidstone



SINGER-SONGWRITER Diana Jones makes a welcome return to Maverick Live after a highly successful year.

Jones has attracted praise from the likes of Terry Wogan, Bob Harris and Johnnie Walker, who were impressed by her fresh and dynamic talent. Her music blends the best of old-time folk, gospel and blues.

Adopted as a baby and raised in New York, Jones always felt a deep connection to the music of Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Emmylou Harris and Dolly Parton. But it was only when she was reunited with her birth family in Tennessee, that she discovered the reason behind her love for country music.

Following the death of her new-found grandfather, Jones wrote the songs that would form My Remembrance Of You, her acclaimed debut album. This was followed by the well-received second album, Better Times Will Come.

Jones's guests for Monday's concert will be Mary Gauthier, Betty Elders and Nanci Griffith. The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12 in advance or £14 on the night. To book call 01622 744481.



ASIAN WEDDING SHOW

Sunday, January 31
Ramada Hotel, Maidstone



ADD a touch of Eastern promise to your big day with Kent's first Asian Wedding Experience.

Show organisers The Wedding Experience have teamed up with the county's premier Asian catering specialist, Lady Chutney's, to host this exciting showcase of Asian wedding products and suppliers. Discover the wonderful ways in which eastern style can enhance your wedding and explore the stunning colours, accessories, rituals and food that can add a touch of magic to any wedding day.

There will be displays of beautiful bridal gowns, sari, kurtis and bridal jewellery, while henna and beauty artists demonstrate the ancient art of mehndi. Photographers, videographers and venue decorators will also be in attendance and there are plenty of wedding vehicles to choose from.

Toastmasters will make sure your day runs smoothly and specialist DJs can provide the best Bhangra and Bollywood tunes.

The event runs from 10.30am to 3.30pm and admission is free. Visit www.wedding-experience.co.uk to pre-register your attendance or call 01795 844449 for details.



MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Betrayed dancer finds friend in moving play

A YOUNG girl discovers friendship in Jean Anouilh's Ring Round the Moon.

When a poor young ballet dancer performs at a grand chateau and then humiliated by her hosts, she feels devastated at the betrayal. But the incident leads to an unexpected friendship.

The play runs at the Oast Theatre in Tonbridge for a week from Saturday. Tickets cost £8/£7. Call 01732 363849.

Latin jazz will get you moving at restaurant

TOES will be tapping when the popular Latin jazz group Heads South performs in Maidstone.

Led by pianist John Harriman, Heads South plays quality music that will delight fans of the genre.

They can be seen at Pizza Express at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £11. To book call 0845 602 7017 or visit www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.

Showcase of local acts hoping to impress you

DISCOVER the wealth of new talent in Kent at tonight's Paul Dunton and Guests musical showcase tonight.

Jimmy Harrison, Ian Knapp, Chris Pope and the headline act, the Logan Wilson Band will perform at the Grey Lady Music Lounge in The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, at 8pm. Admission costs £5. For more information visit www.paulduntonandguests.com.

Bob Marley celebrated by top tribute band

THE sound of a reggae legend is recreated when Zion, pay tribute to Bob Marley.

Featuring hits such as I Shot the Sheriff, No Woman, No Cry, Three Little Birds and Could You Be Loved – the show is a celebration of the icon's work.

The show is at Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre at 7.30pm on Friday. Tickets cost £15/£13.50. Book at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call 01622 758611.

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yourmaidstone**music**

Folk scene starts fightback against neo-Nazi infiltrators

BY DOMINIC GREENWOOD

A GIG aimed at keeping fascism out of folk music – and showcasing some of the best young folk talent in the UK – takes place in Maidstone next month.

Wheeler Street, Los Salvadores and the Didi Bergman Trio will perform at Flaming Henry's under the Folk Against Fascism banner.

Organiser Helen Treacy said: "The BNP is trying to distance itself from its past – the association with neo-Nazi bands like Skrewdriver – and position themselves as the defenders of British traditions.

"The party manifesto encourages members to infiltrate their local folk scene through funding and reviving local traditions. They have also been selling the work of respected musicians through their website, with the implication the artists support their views.

"The folk scene has reacted with revulsion as we are a welcoming, friendly and inclusive lot, and our politics couldn't be further away from the BNP's racism, neo-Nazism and thuggery.

"We want to make it absolutely clear that we do not support their policies and we resist their attempts to take over our culture."

The line-up includes some of the country's most hotly-tipped new folk bands.

Headline act Wheeler Street [www.myspace.com/wheelerstreet], named after the road in their home town of Maidstone, have proved themselves a major draw on the national folk circuit and boast appearances at Glastonbury and Cambridge



CALLING THE TUNE: Three acts will perform at the Folk Against Fascism concert next month

Folk Festival. The seven-piece play a variety of traditional instruments and throw electric guitar and drums into the mix, giving their music a contemporary feel. Los Salvadores [www.myspace.com/lossalvadores], appearing as a three-piece for this gig, have also established themselves on the national festival scene, writing catchy, energetic songs inspired by Kent folk legends.

Helen said: "Wheeler Street are a brilliant, young, lively folk band who represent everything that is exciting about the current scene.

"I have seen them live many times now and know they will put on a great show.

"I asked Los Salvadores to play because I have been a fan of their brand of energetic folk since I saw them busking in the garden of my local pub one Saturday afternoon. They are very politically aware so were happy to support the cause."

Opening the night will be popular Medway singer-songwriter Didi Bergman [www.myspace.com/didibergman].

Helen said: "Didi is a wonderful singer from Medway who went down a storm at the Sweeps Festival in Rochester – her voice reminds me of the late Sandy Denny.

"She was also keen to perform and make a stand against what the BNP are trying to do.

"The acts have generously offered to play for reduced fees, so after covering expenses I'm hoping to make a sizeable donation to Folk Against Fascism's running costs.

"We will also keep a little aside to go towards future gigs. We have a long wish list of artists we'd like to book and are hoping FAF gigs will become a regular feature of the Maidstone folk scene."

The Folk Against Fascism fundraiser is on Thursday, February 4, at Flaming Henry's banquet hall (above the restaurant), 62 to 63 High Street, Maidstone.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £10 from wegotickets.com, or £12 on the door. There will be a 25 per cent meal discount for ticket holders. For more details, visit the website www.folkagainstfascism.com.

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Lounge on the Farm 2009 highlights, with Los Salvadores. Search 'Lounge'



Watch Callista's audition for the Britain's Got Talent TV show. Search 'Callista'



TOP FIVE KENT CHART

- 1 We Are Tides – Mice and Men (from Canterbury)
- 2 Gristlefridge – Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 3 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 4 The Flack – Forget Me (from Deal)
- 5 The Keytones – Autumn Time (from Canterbury)

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Maidstone

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WHATSONWHATSONWHATSONWHATSONWHATSON

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Take the girls for a great night out

■ Verve Grill, Maidstone

CREATIVE seasonal menus are one of the major attractions at the Verve Grill, part of the ever popular Village Hotel in Maidstone.

A relaxed and intimate atmosphere allows diners to sample excellent food and drink with the knowledgeable and friendly staff on hand to cater for their requirements.

Sunday carvery is well-known in the area as a great treat, with the menu complemented by a Nintendo entertainment zone for the young, who all get their own goody bag.

Thursday is a night for the girls, with a two-girl menu of two courses and two glasses of wine between a pair for just £25. Other girls can join the party at £12.50 a head, but bookings are essential.

Tailor-made menus can be created for occasions such as weddings, birthdays and anniversaries and a talented brigade of chefs is on hand to listen to all requests.

Modern classics such as great steaks are always a popular choice, but the restaurant is open to all sorts of food requests.

A Meatloaf tribute band night is being held on January 29, at £29.95, per head while February 12 and 13 will see a candle-lit Valentine's Day menu at £39.95 per person,



including half a bottle of Champagne.

Friday, February 12 also sees a Valentine's Masquerade Ball for the same price.

The following month will see a spring ball and dinner on March 12, at £31.95, and a Mothering Sunday lunch costing £15.95.

Breakfast is available from 7-9.30am Monday to Friday, until 10.30am on Saturday and from 8-10.30am on Sunday.

Sunday lunch – a five-course all you can eat carvery – costs £14.95 and is available from 1pm, while dinner is served from Monday to Saturday from 6-9.45pm and on Sundays from 6-9.30pm.

The hotel also has a health a fitness club, the Victory pub and a Starbucks

Verve Grill, Forstal Road, Maidstone (just off junction 6 M20) 01622 672200, www.village-hotels.co.uk

CHEF RECOMMENDS

Lily Spice

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Main course: Sylhet special: chicken tikka with creamy sauce, fruit, coconut and almond
Dessert: Lemon sorbet
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Martins

Starter: Frosted fruit goblet – melon and kiwi fruit soaked in finest Ruby port.
Main course: Mediterranean salmon, in a white wine sauce with prawns.
Dessert: Amaretti Bombe
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Starter: Thai fishcakes served with a lime and chilli dip
Main course: Char-grilled chicory breast of chicken, hand cut chips with salad garnish
Dessert: Strawberry Bavarois
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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

BELLAMY'S PEOPLE BBC Two, 10pm, Thursday

IT'S rarely that I look forward to a TV show as much as Bellamy's People, the new slice of comedy on BBC Two.

Put together largely by the team that made the Fast Show, with a few others such as Amelia Bullmore added to the mix for good measure, this looked like a cracker from the moment I saw the trailer.

More of a spoof of those 'celebrities meet normal people' series than a sketch show, we meet an array of characters in each episode, each with their own strange stories to tell.

Host Gary Bellamy (Rhys Thomas) takes us up and down the country to meet the real inhabitants of our British Isles.

Bellamy himself is a kind of Alan Partridge-lite character, eager to connect with everyman Britain – especially if there's some good footage that showcases his people skills in it for him.

He is out and about, meeting the eccentrics who phone in to his radio show, but he's really little more than the foil and straight man for those with whom he converses.

We meet the 28-stone, bed-ridden man-mountain Graham Downes (Paul Whitehouse), who is eager to finish off any uneaten bowls of Sugar Puffs left by his mother, and the politically opposed and upper-class Coombes sisters – but there are dozens more.

Of course, all these characters are exaggerations, but this serial gets far closer to telling us about those who walk our streets and live behind the country's net-curtains than EastEnders ever will.

Outright jokes are thin on the



OUT THERE: The Fast Show team has come up with another BBC classic, Bellamy's People

ground, but this is a triumph of observation and I dare say you will spot characteristics of people from your own life in the myriad of personas we will meet over the course of the next seven weeks.

Bellamy's People they may be, but these are people you know, with whom you work and socialise, and that is a scary thought.

Be careful out there.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
DEVOTING time to a creative project gives you a profound sense of contentment. Lately, you've been expending too much energy on other people's needs. Don't be surprised if someone offers to pay you for your work. An admirer may ask you to teach a class.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
SOMEONE from a foreign country finds you irresistible. It's flattering to get so much attention, but take care this flirtation doesn't threaten a serious relationship. If you're single, feel free to embark on a new romance. Your amour will introduce you to all sorts of new things.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
YOU'VE always had a weakness for beautiful clothes. This week, you have the opportunity to add something snazzy to your wardrobe for next to nothing. Even if you do end up spending more than you initially planned, don't worry. Your image will open previously-closed doors.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
TAKING a short pleasure trip will put the twinkle back into your eye. Recently, you've been slaving away on a work project, trying to add more money to your bank account. Now this particular project is finishing up, you have a wonderful chance to get away.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
WHO you know is more important than what you know this week. Whether you're on the lookout for love, employment or fun, reach out to your friends. An earthy woman might have just the opportunity you desire. Let her set you up on a date or job interview.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
YOUR sex appeal is at an all-time high. Finding love is as simple as crooking your finger in an admirer's direction. The two of you have a powerful physical connection and will spend many enjoyable hours locked in each other's arms. You're sure to turn heads at a glittering party.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
BE SURE to buy yourself a lottery or raffle ticket this week, as your propensity for winning is very strong. If you've developed a strong attraction for a newcomer to your social circle why don't you be brave and ask them for a date? The two of you will hit it off instantly.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
SPENDING more time on the people and activities you enjoy will be a blessed relief. Recently you've been devoting a lot of attention to some very unrewarding group projects, but this will be going out of your life. The opportunity to move to a new neighbourhood could fall arise.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
YOUR charm and wit goes over well in the work arena. A hidden benefactor could sing your praises to a powerful executive. You helped them when they were just starting out and now they are in an ideal position to return the favour. It just goes to show it pays to be nice.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
A CLOSE relationship gives you the courage to try something new. Normally, a traditionalist like you has difficulty venturing into unfamiliar territory. Now, with the help of a business contact, best friend or romantic partner, you have the confidence to embark on an adventure.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
RESPONSIBILITIES which have been weighing on your mind are starting to fade, leaving you more free time to spend with your family. Making improvements to your home gives your spirits a lift. If you can't afford new furnishings, you can check out ways to spruce up old ones.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
PAYING careful attention to your appearance will yield rewards. You're not particularly vain, but you do like to look your best. Take careful note of which colours and styles look best on you. This will help narrow down your choices. It will also help you make your money start working for you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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No122

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EASY

					8			
4		1		5				
5	6			2	1	9		
	5					7	9	
3	4						8	1
	2	6					5	
		7	5	1			6	3
				7		1		9
			8					

MEDIUM

8	2				3			
	1						2	6
7				5	2			
					1	7		5
	5						9	
9		8	7					
			5	2				9
5	7						4	
		9				1	8	

HARD

5	2					3	4	
		6	2			5		
	3			4				
1		7			9			
	4						5	
			8			1		7
				9			3	
		2			6	4		
1	3					7	6	

CRYPTIC CLUES

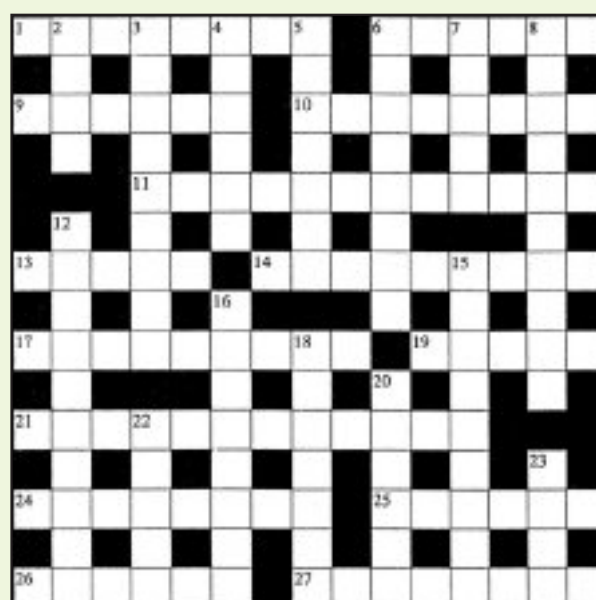
ACROSS

- 1 Carriage squashed a homburg (8)
6 Nearly half the month in charge with this tank (6)
9 Instrument not in drink (6)
10 Honest existence directly comparable to reality (4-4)
11 How pianist repeatedly was cautious and gentle (6-6)
13 Minor actor's bonus (5)
14 River crossing Irish county (9)
17 Boffin, potentially nicest one, by the way (9)
19 Political group festivity (5)
21 Varnish from two countries (6,6)
24 50 suffering lose strength (8)
25 How one's eyes lacked shininess when fitted with glass (6)
26 Behold the boil (6)
27 Moving free, not, say, from this (4-4)

DOWN

- 2 Some pressure Lydia exerted on trust (4)
3 Lack of self-restraint of a French substitute (9)
4 Aptly describe ring included by fifth amazingly (3,3)
5 Girl from Matthew and topless Hilda (7)
6 Edward, after game, was steamrollered (8)
7 Spicy dish consumed by pupil afterwards (5)
8 Pass through antler if it moves (10)
12 Provoke troublesome bearcat in river (10)
15 With camera accessory returned to scene of the past (9)
16 Out of sorts timtice harbouring first parasite (4-4)
18 Mother's turn to stifle (7)
20 Dance, injuring leg, in irregular shaking motion (6)
22 Nearly time, time after sunset (5)
23 The lady's love for brave man (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 ABC (8)
6 Wine-vessel (6)
9 Match statistician (6)
10 Act out part (4-4)
11 Yield (7,5)
13 Cinema film (5)
14 Of the Eastern Roman Empire (9)
17 Detailed route (9)
19 Veracity (5)
21 Straight off (4,4,4)
24 Easily bent (8)
25 Stone table (6)
26 Newsgroups worldwide (6)
27 Very high (8)

DOWN

- 2 Scottish lake (4)
3 Capital of Crete (9)
4 Three-masted vessel (6)
5 Underjailer (7)
6 Blind alley (3-2-3)
7 City in North Yorkshire (5)
8 Religious brotherhood (10)
12 Iron grating (10)
15 Strangler (9)
16 Flying-fox (5-3)
18 Vote for again (2-5)
20 Do wash (anag.) (6)
22 One from SW USA (5)
23 Thin (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No121

EASY

9	3	8	2	5	6	1	7	4
1	7	5	4	9	8	6	2	3
2	4	6	3	7	1	8	5	9
5	6	4	8	2	9	3	1	7
3	8	2	1	4	7	9	6	5
7	9	1	6	3	5	2	4	8
8	5	7	9	1	2	4	3	6
6	2	3	7	8	4	5	9	1
4	1	9	5	6	3	7	8	2

MEDIUM

7	8	1	9	5	3	2	6	4
2	3	4	7	8	6	1	9	5
5	6	9	4	1	2	7	3	8
1	4	8	6	2	7	9	5	3
3	9	2	1	4	6	8	7	5
8	7	5	3	9	8	4	1	2
4	2	6	8	3	9	5	7	1
9	6	3	2	7	1	8	4	6
8	1	7	5	6	4	3	2	9

HARD

4	1	8	5	3	2	7	9	6
9	3	6	4	8	7	1	2	5
2	5	7	1	9	6	8	4	3
5	7	4	2	6	8	3	1	9
8	6	2	3	1	9	4	5	7
1	9	3	7	4	5	2	8	6
6	4	1	8	5	3	9	7	2
3	2	9	6	7	4	5	8	1
7	8	5	9	2	1	6	3	4

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No121

ACROSS: 1 Squashy 5 Wheyish 9 Saki 10 Sacramento 12 Commando 13 End-all 14 Transforming 17 Torch battery 21 Gnomie 23 Toll road 24 Editorship 25 Lazy 26 Epitome 27 New York DOWN: 2 Quahog 3 Axiomatic 4 Hosanna 6 Heave ho 7 Yield 8 Settling 11 Cross-stitch 15 Mayoralty 16 Joined-up 18 Buckram 19 Ellipse 20 Panzer 22 Motel.

QUICK SOLUTION No122

ACROSS: 1 Alphabet 6 Carafe 9 Scorer 10 Texan 23 Lean 22 Shadow 16 Fruitbat 18 Re-elect 20 Shadow 22 Fraternity 12 Portcullis 15 Throttler Baroque 5 Turnkey 6 Cut-de-sac 7 Ripon 8 Towing DOWN: 2 Loch 3 Heraklion 4 that 24 Flexible 25 Dolmen 26 Usenet 27 byzantine 17 Thimble 19 Thrift 21 Just like Role-play 11 Kinuckle under 13 Movie 14

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The Inovalley digital TV has built in stereo speakers and a resolution of 480 x 324 pixels, and comes with a power adaptor and aerial. It is guaranteed for 12 months.

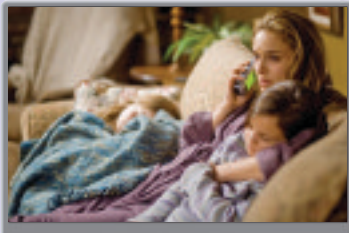
*Signal strength and reception varies throughout the UK and may mean a booster aerial is required in certain areas. The TV relies on a standard TV aerial as a minimum where signals are weak and is not designed to work with a satellite dish.
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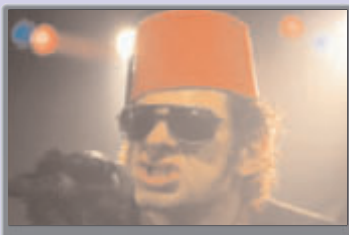
ON GENERAL RELEASE

BROTHERS (15)



In Jim Sheridan's remake of Danish drama Brodre, two siblings are divided by their bond to the same woman. Tobey Maguire is a soldier whose mental wounds threaten to tear his family apart.

SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL (15)



Distinguished by an incendiary lead performance from Andy Serkis, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll is a biopic of 1970s punk pioneer Ian Dury that is as unconventional and fantastical as the man himself.

UP IN THE AIR (15)



George Clooney plays a loveless man who earns his living by flying around America and making total strangers redundant in Jason Reitman's comedy drama.

Clive drops the act to show who's the daddy

■ BY SHEREEN LOW

CLIVE Owen has attracted thousands of female fans by smouldering his way through films such as Closer, Sin City and Duplicity. Yet his own girls are keen to see him play a new kind of role.

The 45-year-old star says his daughters Hannah and Eve would like him to do more family-friendly roles.

"They're very keen for me to do a film to give them bragging rights at school," he laughs.

Owen's latest film, The Boys Are Back, is a step in that direction.

In the drama, based on journalist Simon Carr's memoirs and shot in Australia, Owen plays Joe Warr, who struggles with being a single parent to his six-year-old son after his wife dies of cancer.

The 45-year-old admits his own experience of fatherhood was "a huge part of wanting to do the film".

"I'm a parent and it's a big part of my life. I recognised I had similar experiences to a lot of things in this movie, so it felt familiar," he says.

Besides its appeal as a more family-focused drama, it was really the script that captured Owen's imagination.

"It's a beautiful script. I thought it was unusual in its delicacy and intelligence in exploring these relationships, and a beautiful exploration of both grief and parenting."

He adds: "It wasn't sentimental, it was precise. I found it terribly moving when I got to the scene where Joe was telling his son that his mother might not be around much longer. I found the whole conversation upsetting."

The Coventry-born actor made it clear to



FATHERHOOD: Clive Owen takes on a more caring role

director Scott Hicks that he wanted a film steeped in reality.

"I'd seen lots of family movies where the family is in this lovely, warm bubble, and even when things get tough, it's all very sweet.

"Real families aren't like that – it's much more volatile than that and this script explored that in a very honest way," he says.

Owen, married to wife Sarah-Jane, brought his real-life experiences as a dad into the role.

"I didn't have the huge, tragic loss that they have, but in terms of the ups and downs of parenting, I felt I've experienced quite a few of them," he says.

"I was interested in the scenes showing the tougher times in the film, for example when

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the kid has a tantrum in the car. I could relate to that scene and I was interested to make that tough for my character because all parents will relate."

The Boys Are Back follows Joe as he gets to grips with parenthood and adopts his own way of parenting.

In one scene, he allows his son to ride on the bonnet of the car as they drive along Australia's Aldinga Beach.

"Those scenes tend to split people – some people say it's very irresponsible and others think it looks like fantastic fun.

"The film isn't advocating this way of parenting, it's saying this is this guy's approach to it. It's not about being responsible or irresponsible, it's trying to get their lives back on track."

THE BOYS ARE BACK
Certificate 12A

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PROPERTY NEWS

Dream of home owning may never come true

AN independent housing body has advised that future homebuyers could face average house prices that are 10 times their salary.

Buying a home could become unattainable unless the number of homes being built increases.

A study from new National Housing and Planning Advice Unit said a fifth of non-homeowners think it will take them at least five years before they're able to buy and more than a third believe they will never get onto the property ladder.

The NHPAU was set up by the Government to provide independent advice on improving housing market affordability. Government statistics illustrate that in the year 2000, the average cost of a home was four times the annual salary.

However, by 2006, house price increases meant that homebuyers were looking at seven times their salary.

The demand for housing is on the increase and something must be done or the pressure on the market will only deteriorate. On a further study of 2,700 UK adults, NHPAU discovered the majority states the government need to take action to make housing more affordable.

The mortgage lending market still 'restrained'

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders has revealed that the number of home loans approved for house purchase fell four per cent in November compared with the previous month.

According to the CML, there were 53,000 mortgages granted to buyers, a fall on October but this was due to a "seasonal dip".

However, the CML did highlight that the figures were still 66 per cent higher than in November 2008.

Remortgaging activity continued to remain at low levels, as a result of the low interest rate environment, said the CML.

The Council added that first-time buyers were still having to put down a hefty deposit of 25 per cent but with interest rates still remaining at the historic low of 0.5 per cent, mortgage interest payments are so affordable for homemovers and first-time buyers.

However, the CML's director general Michael Coogan said: "With substantial deposits still needed to secure a mortgage, the market will continue to be relatively restrained for some time to come."



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Picture: iPHAN/PH/PA

THEY'RE IN THE MONEY: Overall in 2009 landlords were £12,700 in the black, almost reversing £15,000 losses in 2008 and 2010 is set to see higher returns than 2009

Landlords look forward to profitable returns

■ BY NICK AMES

THE buy-to-let property market in the UK is looking forward to a promising 2010 after strong returns combined with low arrears made 2009 much better than expected.

Overall in 2009 landlords were £12,700 in the black, almost reversing £15,000 losses in 2008 and 2010 is set to see higher returns than 2009, according to the latest Buy to Let Index from LSL Property Services, the UK's largest residential letting agents.

It also shows that although increases in property values and a recent slight drop in rents caused dip in yields, tenant arrears performed strongly in 2009, contrary to expectations, and landlords enjoyed a 7.6 per cent annual return on their investments by the end

of December 2009.

The value of their properties rose three per cent in the year while rental income after void periods added a further 4.6 per cent. This means that in 2009 a typical landlord made a return of £12,740. This was a combination of modest capital gains of £4,831 on each property and £7,909 in rental income.

By contrast, in 2008, a typical landlord would have lost 8.8 per cent even after allowing for rental income. They lost £23,000 in capital as the property fell in value, and earned £7,900 in rent for the full year, leading to a total loss of £15,100.

"Despite the worst recession in living memo-

ry, and despite house prices continuing to fall for the first few months of 2009, investment returns in buy-to-let were very respectable.

"The £12,700 the average landlord made on a rented property during the year recouped most of the losses in the housing crash of 2008. Brave landlords who added to their portfolios will be celebrating an excellent year," said David Brown, commercial director of LSL Property Services.

Rents ended 2009 0.2 per cent higher than the previous year.

"Landlords must not lose sight of rental income when house prices move up, however. Rents should form the foundation of buy-to-let investment and are key to financing mortgage borrowings. Allowing yields to drop too low is inadvisable," added Mr Brown.

RICS predicts further house price rises at beginning of 2010

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has reported that house price growth slowed in December.

Almost one third of surveyors reported price gains than falls during the month. However, the positive balance was lower than in the previous two months.

RICS did point out that a shortage of properties on the market is continuing to drive up house prices and it is predicting further gains in the early part of this year

but this will be followed by modest falls in the latter half of the year, resulting in a small overall rise of one to two per cent.

Many other experts are predicting house prices will be flat over the course of the next 12 months as a result of the current economic uncertainty.

RICS spokesman Jeremy Leaf said: "The recent loss of momentum in prices and the moderation in new buyer interest can be in part attributed to the housing

market pulling down its shutters for Christmas.

"It is likely the new year will see more interest and activity in the market as those who held back start to market their property with renewed optimism," added Mr Leaf.

Many analysts were surprised by the strength in house prices last year. RICS said house prices rose for the seventh consecutive month in December.

This corresponded with many

other house price indices with the Halifax reporting that prices were 1.1 per cent higher in December compared with a year ago – the first annual rise since March 2008.

Meanwhile, RICS said seven out of 12 regions showed price increases in the past three months, while the remainder experienced falls. The biggest gains were experienced in London and the southeast of England.

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Maidstone Asking Price £116,000

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Barming Offers in excess of £200,000

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Maidstone £232,500

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Maidstone,

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- Downstairs bathroom, three bedrooms

OIEO £235,000

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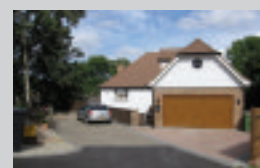
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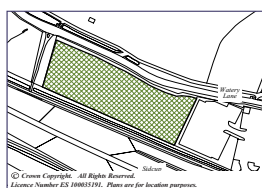
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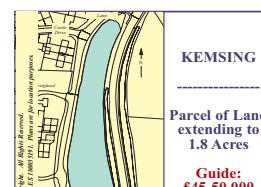
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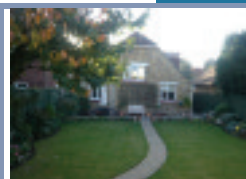


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- Guide price £425,000 - £450,000
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- Close to Town Centre

Maidstone £102,000



- 1 Bedroom Retirement Apartment
- Newly Fitted Carpets
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Maidstone £550 pcm



- One Bedroom Maisonette
- Close to town centre
- Brand new modern kitchen
- Available Now

Maidstone £550 pcm



- One bedroom apartment
- Furnished
- Bathroom with shower
- First floor

Maidstone £650 pcm



- Popular Location ideally situated
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Master Bedroom with En Suite
- Allocated Parking

Maidstone £650 pcm



- Two Bedroom First floor maisonette
- Good Condition Throughout
- Modern Kitchen with appliances
- Available Now

Maidstone £675 pcm



- Two bedroom apartment
- Kitchen with integrated appliances
- Single Garage and Parking
- Available Now

Leeds, Maidstone £675 pcm



- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Kitchen with integrated appliances
- Parking for one car + rear garden
- Available End January

Maidstone £725 pcm



- Two Bedroom Split Level Apartment
- Allocated parking for one car
- Close to Town Centre
- Available Now

Maidstone £725 pcm



- New Two Bedroom Apartment
- Kitchen with integrated appliances
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Available Now!

Maidstone £750 pcm



- Two bedroom mid terrace house
- Two reception rooms
- On street permit parking
- Available January

Maidstone £795 pcm



- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor - Views of river
- Private balcony, parking space
- Available Now

Maidstone £795 pcm



- Three Bedroom Apartment
- Split Level
- Roof top balcony with views
- Available Now

Maidstone £1150 pcm



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Stanhope House, Maidstone £600
Two bedroom top floor flat, electric
heating, en-suite and parking

MOTORS NEWS



Alfa's sporty economy

SPORTING credentials should not bar you from being environmentally-aware – that's the message from Italy's Alfa Romeo.

And it follows the launch of new 'MultiAir' engines (from £15,165) now offered in the popular MiTo supermini line-up, including a 170bhp 1.4 MultiAir Cloverleaf performance flagship (£17,895) that can sprint from 0-62mph in 7.5 seconds yet average at least 45mpg while generating much lower CO2 emissions.

All MultiAir models come with 'Start and Stop' technology too, which cuts and then automatically re-starts the engine at the traffic lights.



Merc estate showing its 'crammability' class

ONE of the classic quality load-luggers is now available in new generation guise – the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Estate (from £29,785).

It can also be bought with an engine generating as little as 150g/km of CO2 from its exhaust pipe and capable of averaging nearly 50mpg.

'Crammability' is as good as ever with self-levelling rear suspension as standard and a load space claimed to be best in class. Rear seats can be folded down using just one finger says M-B.



Octavia's new options

SKODA'S popular Octavia model has gained two attractions – an ultra-frugal/low-emission 1.2-litre turbo petrol engine and an economical diesel with DSG gearbox.

The former (from £12,935) underlines a trend towards leaner and cleaner small capacity petrol units, while the latter brings the ultra-flexible double-clutch auto (and manual) DSG to the Octavia's 1.6-litre diesel unit.

The VW-owned Czech marque offers the DSG on the small petrol engine too for extra flexibility and all of these new options can be bought in either Octavia hatch or estate form.



SHOOTING FOR THE TOP: Audi's latest A4 is a truly fine car, longer than previous versions with the biggest boot in its class and comes with front wheel and all-wheel drive

Audi continues drive to the top with its new A4

SALES volumes show Audi still hasn't quite overtaken BMW as the UK's upmarket sector champ.

That VW's snob brand is nicely tucked in on the leader's shoulder though is due largely to the A4, a model defying the mantra that driver-focused cars in this executive sector must be rear-wheel drive, as with the BMW 3-Series, Mercedes-Benz C-Class and Lexus IS.

In response, Audi has made its front-driven contender as good as it can be and also offered it with the all-wheel drive Quattro system for drivers who demand the full handling experience... or the chance to talk about it.

The latest A4 arrived in 2008, putting right a perennial complaint about cabin space, particularly in the back.

It also has the biggest boot in its class.

But the A4 is now a big car and, at 4.72 metres-long by 2.01 wide, it underlines a growth trend, highlighted here by noting that Audi's 1997-2004 A6 – from the market sector above – was 4.79 by 1.99 metres.

The latest A4 is a truly fine car though, so capable in all areas that it is virtually ano-

ROAD TEST AUDI A4

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

dyne. Whatever the mood, the A4 is so in tune that it slips into the background.

Our road test car was the best-selling A4 2.0 TDI, almost as much of a darling to company car user choosers as the ubiquitous BMW 320d.

In the lower output 120PS (118bhp) SE form as tested (£23,720), it is probably a tad underpowered for the scale of the A4 – there are 143 and 170PS versions – but the ability to average nearly 60mpg is not to be sneered at.

It benefits from a tidy six-speed gearshift, crisp steering and excellent grip and composure in the corners; ride quality is considerably better than the previous car, no doubt helped by the bigger stretch between front and back wheels.

The cabin has the material and ergonomic layout design quality that has made Audi the benchmark brand in its sector.

Needless to say, space and comfort for all is impressive too, although the middle rear seat passenger has to plant his/her feet awkwardly either side of the centre hump.

This accomplished all-rounder may be a hard car to love outright, but it's hard to fault too.



SEE MOTORSTV FOR MORE ROAD TESTS BY STEVE LOADER @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR BLACK 12000 MILES.....	£6495

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08 08 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIRC 5DR BLUE 7000 MILES.....	£8995
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08 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS PANACOTTA 7 SEATER 10000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS METRO BLUE 7 SEATER 10000 MILES.....	£9495
07 07 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS SILVER 7 SEATER 17000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIRC 5DR STAR SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIRC 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 5000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIRC 5DR STAR SILVER 4000 MILES.....	£7995
04 04 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIRC/ULTRA BLUE 42000 MILES.....	£4995

RENAULT SCENIC'S

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FAMILY CARS

THIS sector used to dominate the UK car market, but sales have been eroded by new categories such as the 4x4 sports utility vehicle and MPV and encroachment by upmarket compact executive models like the BMW 3-Series, which outsells Ford's former UK market leader, the Mondeo, in some months. Nevertheless, many second-hand car buyers still like the idea of a spacious, comfortable and more conventional family runabout and prices can be very affordable, so here are three popular and contrasting sellers based on ability and value.

FORD MONDEO



ONCE the UK's favourite car, its fall from favour reflects changing tastes rather than the Mondeo's ability. The car's greatest weakness has been the bonnet badge – something the current generation car tries to overcome with Germanic quality and detail. Nevertheless, the previous car was well-built, superb to drive and incredibly spacious. Apart from the best-selling hatchback there is a saloon and one of the roomiest and best-looking estates in the sector.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CITROEN C5



CITROEN'S latest C5 is a stunner inside and out and lives up to ads suggesting that 'the Germans' may be worried. The old car was less of a threat, but never mind the looks – look at the prices. The original C5 has actually proved to be a reliable and great value used buy, with a pliant ride and loads of space; the estate is enormous for anyone needing to cart lots of stuff and diesels are the star buy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VW PASSAT



VW'S previous Passat set a higher benchmark for quality and the new version raised the bar again. The German giant knows the best way to counter upmarket rivals, including sister marque Audi, was by upping the standard of the overall package, so the new Passat is more spacious, drives better than previous models and looks good. Factor in some of the best engines, petrol or diesel, choice of saloon or capacious estate, plus modest used prices and it looks irresistible.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SELL YOUR CAR

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yourcanterbury

yourswale
yourthanet

yourmedway
yourmaidstone

yourshpway
yourdover

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6 01/Y
5dr, Hatchback, Met
Red, FSH, 1 Owner
30,000 Miles, £7995
01234 567890

£7
Lineage
p/wk

Lineage
Approx. 20 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback,
Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles,
01234 567890

£9.50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words



FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback, Metallic Red, Full Service
1 Owner, Power Steering, Electric Windows
Sunroof, 30,000 Miles. Tel 01234 567890

£7,995.00

6x2
Max. 25 words

£22
6x2 photo
p/wk



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Email: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

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- ESTATE AGENCY, PROPERTY

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- HEALTH AND SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENCE
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- MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY
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- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
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- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 38-40

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

We are a Ramsgate based private school providing English courses for adult international students throughout the year and summer junior courses at other UK locations. You will have the relevant experience and proven skills to develop and execute new marketing strategies to win profitable business. You will be a passionate sales negotiator willing to undertake significant overseas travel. Excellent leadership, teamwork and communication skills are a must. This is a senior position with a generous remuneration package tailored to attract the best.

CV and current salary to
Churchill House, Spencer Square, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9EQ
Deborah.Cook@churchillhouse.co.uk

PARTS ADVISOR

Based in Maidstone

Whitehouse Maidstone is looking for a Parts Advisor with either Crystler, Jeep or Hyundai experience.

A competitive salary is offered with 22 days holiday per annum.

To apply please submit your CV via email to darren.fiddes@whitehousegroup.co.uk or by post to **Whitehouse Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8QX**

Experienced Sewing Machinists required for Clothing Factory
Full-time.
Gillingham area.
Please call 01634 843181 or email ella@raynerandsturges.com



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The successful candidate must :-

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- Be self-motivated and able to work on their own initiative or as part of a team.

Please apply in writing to :-

Porters Craft Limited

Unit 1C Jetty Road, Kingsnorth Industrial Estate, Hoo Rochester, Kent ME3 9ND
E Mail : info@porterscraft.co.uk Web Site : www.porterscraft.co.uk
Telephone : 01634 • 255725 Facsimile : 01634 • 254427

Housekeeper

A professional couple based in central Tunbridge Wells require a reliable and trustworthy housekeeper to work for 10-12 hours per week covering the following duties:

- General cleaning and housework
- Washing and ironing
- Dry cleaning drop off/collection
- Food shopping

If you are interested in this role please send a letter explaining why you feel you would be suited to the role to ask@hradvise.me or write to HR Advise Me Ltd, 15-17 Mount Ephraim Road, Tunbridge Wells. TN1 1EN.

Competitive rate of pay offered, working hours to be agreed.

Mid-day Supervisor
Required for small village school. Immediate start, subject to necessary safeguarding checks. Contact Helen Randall (Secretary) 01732 822803 Trottiscliffe CE Primary School

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Based in Maidstone

Whitehouse Maidstone is looking for an Accounts Assistant for 2 days per week.

Flexible time on Tuesday and Wednesday. Experience of working in accounts is necessary.

To apply please submit your CV via email to Yvonne.root@whitehousegroup.co.uk or by post to **Whitehouse Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8QX**

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

£15-£18K basic salary + bonus (Near Ashford)

Support local produce? Want to get involved with a fast growing environmentally friendly business? Love the internet?

This is an exciting opportunity to join a fast growing online consumer business Food for Kent. Due to the current rapid expansion of Food for Kent and its online home retail business we are recruiting a marketing executive to support our ongoing operations in Aldington, nr Ashford.

We deliver high quality locally sourced food across Kent and London and require a dynamic professional to help our business grow to the next stage.

The successful candidate will play a key role in coordinating and delivering the marketing strategy, managing online content, customer communication and analysis.

The ideal candidate will ideally have:-

- 1 years marketing experience
- Excellent communication skills
- A high level of computer literacy

This really is an exciting time to join a progressive, forward thinking company. Apply now in writing to info@foodforkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications 30st January 2009.



To advertise in this section
 01303 817040



Saint George's

Church of England School Humanities College
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

Teaching Assistant (Behaviour)

KS4 Pts 11-14 £15,984 - £16,793
30 hours per week, 39 weeks per year
(Pro-Rata pay £10,936 - £11,490)

We are seeking an experienced Teaching Assistant to join our team.

We are looking for someone who has:

- The ability to work constructively with young people and to manage challenging behaviour
- A patient, calm and positive approach
- The ability to apply firm and consistent boundaries

Saint George's C of E School is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, celebrating diversity and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.
Email dhariwall@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 10 February 2010



Beech Road, East Malling, Kent, ME19 6DH 01732 840995

MPS Teacher + SEN 1

Enthusiastic, innovative teacher to join dedicated, supportive staff of Tydeman Centre within mainstream secondary school.

Ability to teach variety of subjects to small groups with dyslexia, speech & language, autistic spectrum disorders. To deliver individual tutorial programme to small tutor group.

Primary or Secondary experience; interest in Maths, Science or ASDAN advantage. Specialist training offered.

Tydeman Centre 'outstanding' - OFSTED April 2009

Contact Ann Noble to visit.

Further details / forms from career opportunities link on website: www.themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Applications to Elaine Greenwood
elaine.greenwood@mhffederation.co.uk
by Friday 29 January 2010

You Missed It !!!

6 weeks ago we advertised probably the BEST job ever.

The lucky candidates are now making in excess of £700+ pw OTE. We now need 5 more. If you have a car and phone, call for more info -

0800 840 1289

No experience necessary as full training can be provided.

Faversham Residential Home requires

Care Assistants

to work on rota basis

Also required

Weekend Domestic

9am – 2pm

For further details please telephone
01795 532629 between 10am – 4pm

The following staff are required for a small children's home in the Swanley area:



Senior Residential Childcare Workers (dependent on qualifications and experience)

- Qualified to NVQ 3 Health and Social Care, Children and Young People or equivalent
- Minimum of one year working in a Residential Children's Home at a senior level essential.

Residential Childcare Workers (dependent on qualifications and experience)

- Experience of working in a Children's home essential

Waking Night Officers

- Experience of working in a Children's home is essential

Part time Residential Child Care Worker (Tuesdays 8.30am – 4.30pm) this is NOT a term time only role. This role will involve supporting the teaching staff/ care staff in the home and school, including teaching assistant duties.

All candidates for all posts **MUST** have a current enhanced CRB and be able to drive.

Experience and confidence of working with children with challenging behaviour is essential and all candidates will be short listed on this area of expertise.

- In return we will offer:**
- Challenging and varied work
 - Full Induction program
 - Regular professional supervision
 - Full training package including professional qualification

For an informal discussion and an application form, please call: **01474 871999**

Or go to www.jandrcareitd.co.uk where you can download a job description and application form. If you would like to email the completed application form, please send to jnparish@aol.com

Outgoing? Determined? Tenacious? Great Communicator? Self Motivated?

If this describes you then you could be the person we are looking for to join our sales team at KOS Media as a

TELEPHONE SALES EXECUTIVE

Based at our offices in Smeeth, Ashford, working as part of our sales team, the person we are looking for will be responsible for looking after our existing advertisers as well as developing and increasing our client base. In return we offer a good basic salary, a performance related bonus earning opportunity and five weeks annual holiday.

KOS Media is one of the fastest-growing, independent regional media companies in Britain which publishes **Kent on Saturday** the award winning **Kent on Sunday** and ten **Yourlocal** titles, along with seasonal and annual magazines.

If you feel you can meet and exceed these qualities and expectations then please send your CV to:

Ynez Coton, Associate Director,
KOS Media Ltd.,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent. TN25 6SR

Or e-mail ynnez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk



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Award Winning Company

New Year, New Challenge

MidKent College have exciting one year secondment opportunities for the following positions:

Assistant Principal (£63K) negotiable subject to experience.

Head of Faculty (£46K) negotiable subject to experience.

Teacher Coach (£33K) negotiable subject to experience.

MidKent College is a large, successful FE College operating on two main campuses in Medway and Maidstone. Our state of the art, £86 million Medway campus is next door to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College is training all their soldiers in Construction & Engineering under a 30-year contract.

Our recent OFSTED Inspection described the College as 'good' overall with 'outstanding' capacity to improve. We would like to accelerate our improvement agenda by seconding individuals who will relish the chance to undertake a specific improvement project within the College in areas such as A levels, Skills for Life, Construction, Engineering, Teaching and Learning. Whether you are already in FE, working in a school or Sixth Form College, or working elsewhere in education, this is an ideal opportunity to develop your skills in a supportive environment working alongside some high quality senior leaders.

We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups and will meet reasonable living expenses for staff who live outside the area.

The roles above are the indicative levels that we seek secondments at. There is, however, some scope for flexibility for high calibre individuals who can help us on our journey to be "outstanding"!

If you are interested in knowing more please contact our retained consultant Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 or by email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk



MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Thanet is a beautiful place to work



Thanet is a great place to live and work. Our historic seaside towns of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs are rich in heritage and opportunity. From the multi-million pound Turner Contemporary Gallery, the fast speed rail link to London, and the popular Westwood Cross shopping centre - this is an exciting time to join Thanet District Council. We are determined to improve the quality of life for local people. We believe that by listening to local people, working in active partnership and by being prepared to do things in an innovative way we can accelerate improvement and best meet the challenges ahead.

Committee Services Manager

Salary £29,895 to £35,007 per annum

Under the guidance of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, this post will be responsible for managing a small team of officers providing committee and scrutiny services, and will contribute to relevant projects, such as the updating of the Council's constitution and the development of a Member learning & development strategy. Applicants need to be educated to degree level and have considerable experience of committee and scrutiny services, including management experience.

Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer

Salary £26,940 to £30,738 per annum

This post provides an exciting opportunity for someone with an interest in policy review, because roughly half of the time the post holder will support the Council's overview and scrutiny function. That involves bringing together the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel investigating local issues, the Cabinet Members that take the decisions and the Directors that advise them. A mature approach to undertaking the work is essential, to ensure the scrutiny role adds value to the Council's achievements. The remainder of the time the post holder will provide more general support to some of the Council's other committees, arranging and attending meetings, and taking minutes. Applicants need to be educated to degree level or equivalent.

The closing date for both positions is: Friday 12 February 2010
Interviews will be held: Tuesday 2 or Wednesday 3 March 2010

For an informal discussion about both positions, please contact Glenn Back on 01843 577187

All posts include generous annual leave, flexible working, a 37-hour week, subsidised bus pass, as well as access to the local government final salary pension scheme.

For an application form and job description for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on (01843) 577175 (24 hours), e-mail jobs.hrpartnership@doover.gov.uk or download an application form from www.thanet.gov.uk/jobs. Applications to be returned to: East Kent H R Partnership, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ

Thanet District Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to employing people with disabilities. Any disabled applicant who meets the minimum criteria for the posts will be guaranteed an interview.

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Whitehouse Maidstone Chrysler Jeep and Hyundai dealership, is looking for an experienced car sales executive with proven track record in the motor trade.

A competitive salary is offered together with on target bonus, company vehicle and 22 days holiday per annum.

To apply or for more information call
Mark Wood on markwood@whitehousegroup.co.uk
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CANDY CARRIERS

Require

Business Development Co-ordinator

Specialising in the Worldwide Delivery Market

An ideal opportunity for an experienced sales professional whose knowledge of the International import and export industry through air, road or sea freight, now seeking a new challenge by utilising their skills in creating and developing new services within our business.

The role will demand an organised, efficient, motivated individual who is able to be creative, supervise, liaise and generate growth from existing and potential new clients. Drawing from previous experience the development of new routes and outlets for these high quality services will be within the role.

Working within a small sales team the position will be a combination of field and office based duties where liaison with suppliers and clients will need the benefit of operational and IT experience.

The candidate should be articulate with good communication skills, along with the experience and ability to negotiate contracts and meet financial targets creating increased profitability.

All applications should be accompanied by a full CV outlining relevant experience, salary and benefit expectations to fulfill this position and forwarded to:

Mr Andrew Dixon
Candy Carriers
Unit F3 Broadoak Enterprise Village
Broadoak Road
Sittingbourne
Kent ME9 8AQ

High Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapists

ONE FULL TIME & ONE PART TIME

£29,789 – £39,273 (PRO RATA FOR PART TIME) ESSENTIAL CAR ALLOWANCE OF

UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM (PRO RATA FOR PART TIME)

37.5 HOURS PER WEEK (FULL TIME) • 26 HOURS PER WEEK (PART TIME)

BASED MEDWAY

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. We provide a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration and opportunities for further training and career development.

We require two Cognitive Behavioural Therapists to join our Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service within KCA's Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) team. You will be providing high intensity CBT interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You will also provide line management to a number of Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners as well as an advisory service to IAPT colleagues on matters related to practice and delivery of CBT to individuals accessing the service in line with IAPT guidelines and best practice. The role may include group work, if the post holder is qualified and competent.

A diploma in cognitive behavioural therapy is essential, and the applicant must be accredited, or working towards accreditation with the BABCP. Some evening and weekend work may also be required.

To discuss this post informally please contact the Operations Manager, Kerry Smith on 07779 658886 (Monday to Thursday).

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 630.

Closing date: 12 February 2010.

Interview date: w/c 22 February 2010 in Medway.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



Age & Sons, Ramsgate
Require

Sous Chef and Wait Staff

Must be able to work weekends

Please send your CV to

Email: info@age&sons.co.uk

Opus Care require:

A Deputy Manager - RGN

A Unit Manager – RGN

F/T & P/T RGNs (Days & Nights)

For full details, telephone

The Manager, Julie Caine on

01233 643555

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Ramsgate

£26,241 plus benefits

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We offer an impressive benefits package including Final Salary Pension Scheme and free travel on Southeastern, Southern and London Midland rail services. After a qualifying period you can enjoy reduced rate rail travel on other train operators, including European travel, and reduced rate leisure rail travel for your spouse and any dependent children.

To apply for an information and application pack please email your details to careers@southeasternrailway.co.uk quoting reference KOS/01.

Closing date: 10th February 2010.

www.southeasternrailway.co.uk

southeastern.

Motor Vehicle Training Instructor & NVQ Assessor

The MV trainer will deliver training and carry out assessments on Motor Vehicle Apprentices from our Rochester training centre and cover the Kent region. You must have good Motor Vehicle practical experience which should include HGV systems. You will be a good communicator with an interest in developing Motor Vehicle Apprentices. You should have basic computer skills such as word processing and spreadsheets.

Any candidates with training and assessor qualifications will certainly be of interest although training will be provided for suitably experienced candidates. You will be presentable, flexible, well-organised, self-motivated, prepared to take responsibility and work co-operatively within a team focussed on customers and trainees. You must be able to use your own car to travel throughout Kent.

IPS is a good company to work for with a friendly working environment; the package includes, competitive salary, profit bonus, personal pension, life insurance, medical insurance and other benefits including part time or flexible working arrangements. To apply, email your CV with a covering letter. kimhollands@ips-international.com

IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups

Apply to, Kim Hollands
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Sir Thomas Longley Road
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Kent, ME2 4DU
E: kimhollands@ips-international.com



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BEATEN: Chichester's strength in the scrum proved too much for Maidstone
Picture BOB HAYTON

Chichester prove too tough for Maidstone

RUGBY

Maidstone 5 Chichester 30

ing attacking moves. His run from the blind side set up Chichester's first try of the afternoon, which extended their lead to ten points.

Maidstone's chances of getting anything out of the game slipped further away when the visitors added another penalty and a second try from a line-out catch and drive. Another penalty followed to give Chichester an 18-0 lead at the break.

Despite injuries to Lee Thomson, Steve Matthews and Duncan McClintock, Maidstone made a better start to the second-half. After 20 minutes of probing they finally found a gap in the Chichester defence and exploited it. A long kick downfield from Molloy found touch and gave Maidstone a chance to pressure the Chichester line-out and after winning that, Neil Graves scored Maidstone's first try. Molloy missed the conversion.

However, the home side's mini-revival was quickly nipped in the bud by Chichester, who scored two quick-fire tries in the last ten minutes to wrap up the points.

RUGBY

Picture MARTYN WATSON



BACKWARDS: Aylesford Bulls still remain winless

Beckenham leave Bulls in the dust

Beckenham 19 Aylesford Bulls 0

AFTER seemingly taking a forward step in the previous weekend's narrow defeat to Cobham, Aylesford Bulls took another stride backwards with a disappointing performance against Beckenham on Saturday.

The Bulls pushed Cobham all the way in a 22-20 defeat the previous weekend and that was as close as Aylesford have come this season, but it would have given them confidence going into Saturday's trip to Beckenham. But in truth they were unable to get anywhere near their London 1 South rivals.

Beckenham settled into the game quickly and took the lead inside the first five minutes by successfully kicking a penalty. They continued to stun a slow-starting Aylesford by extending their lead mid-way through the half, with what proved to be the only try of the game.

The Bulls struggled to create any meaningful attacking moves during the half and were glad the deficit at the break was only ten points.

The visitors started the second-half much more attack-minded and created an opening by earning a penalty. Dan Harvey managed to find the distance, but his effort lack accuracy and whistled past the post. They kept probing but were unable to find any flaws in the Beckenham defence.

The home side wrapped up the victory in the final ten minutes with three successful penalties. The game ended on a sour note for Bulls, as frustration got the better of three players, who were sin-binned in the final two minutes.

Aylesford face another tough task this Saturday as they host league leaders Gravesend.



THIS week we launched a bid to right a wrong – and get Dame Kelly Holmes the gold medal she still craves.

In a campaign we will take to the very top of world athletics, we want drug cheat Regina Jacobs stripped of the gold she won at the World Indoor Athletics Championships in 2003.

She pipped our Kelly into second place – but just weeks later was exposed as a drug cheat; testing positive for steroids.

Now KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, is launching a bid to win our local heroine the title we feel should now be rightfully hers.

Holmes, who won two gold medals at the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004, was beaten into second place at the indoor 1500m event in Birmingham in March, 2003, by Jacobs.

But Jacobs later failed a drugs test after winning at the US Championships in June.

She was handed a four-year ban, but aged 40 at the time, decided to call time on her career. Jacobs, who has always protested her innocence, was stripped of the national title, but because the World Indoors preceded the failed test, the result in Birmingham still stands.

Review

We now urge the sport's governing body – the International Association of Athletics Federations – to review this decision in light of a recent case in which Great Britain's 1997 4x400m relay team were awarded the World title after finishing second to a US team which included Antonio Pettigrew.

He admitted using banned substances at the time and consequently, the GB team found out this month they will get their gold medals after the four athletes began a campaign in 2008.

Holmes, from Hildenborough, near Tonbridge, admits the defeat to an athlete who was later found to be using performance enhancing drugs, still rankles.

"I think [the medal] should be taken away from that athlete if they have been done for drugs," she said. "If they have been caught in that year of competition, well they actually didn't just get caught doing it right there and then did they? It was before that."

"[Regina Jacobs] was somebody who was banned that season and yet she wasn't stripped of the gold medal she won in March of that year and I think that's wrong."

"If you have been banned, give back the medal from that year. She got caught and banned and there's a logic to say that, okay, she got caught in June it's more than likely she was using it in March as well. So then give back the medals, not so much mine, but they should be given back as a general rule."

Gold should have our Kelly's name on it



Picture GETTY IMAGES

FOOL'S GOLD: Kelly Holmes can barely hide her contempt as she loses the World Indoor 1500m final to Regina Jacobs in Birmingham in 2003 – Jacobs later failed a drugs test

Eyebrows had been raised six weeks prior to the Birmingham meet when Jacobs, then 39, became the first woman to run 1500 metres in under four minutes indoors, breaking a 13-year world record.

For Holmes, the World Indoor title is one accolade missing from her glittering CV.

"For me, the worst thing was that it was in Birmingham and I would have loved to have stood there as World Indoor champion, but instead I was a silver medalist which is a great achievement, but not when you have done it against a druggie at the end of the day," she said.

KOS Media will lobby the IAAF to re-examine the case and is urging readers to send in their letters of support to help the campaign.

Sports editor Glenn Pearson said: "We feel this is something that needs looking into and the record should be set straight. Dame Kelly has strong views against the use of drugs in sport and so do we."

"We urge our readers to get involved with our campaign."

• Send letters of support to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, TN25 6SR or by email at sports@kosmedia.co.uk.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Stones earn FA Trophy reprieve and prize money

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

MAIDSTONE United have been reinstated into the FA Trophy and will face Blue Square Premier side Salisbury City in the second round this Saturday.

The Ryman Premier League club lodged a protest to the Football Association last Wednesday, claiming Histon fielded an ineligible player during the 3-0 first round defeat last week.

After a hearing at Wembley Stadium on Monday, the FA decided Histon's Jack Wernldy, who played 70 minutes of the tie, was ineligible, as he joined the club after the original date for the game on December 12.

The FA have subsequently thrown Histon out of this year's competition and reinstated Maidstone. Prize money of £5,000 has also been awarded to Maidstone for passing through the first round. The decision means United will play their second round tie this Saturday at Salisbury City's Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

Stones chairman Paul Bowden-Brown said: "I'm obviously pleased with the decision. Justice has been done, we're grateful for what the FA have done and we're also grateful the FA have decided not to throw Histon out of next year's competition. We have been given



REINSTATED: Stones chairman Paul Bowden-Brown is delighted with the Football Association's decision

the prize money too. It's a great help to the club, but we didn't go to the FA hoping they would award us the £5,000."

The trip to Salisbury represents the first time Maidstone have reached the second round of the FA Trophy since 1988. Bowden-Brown is hoping the fans will turn out for the occasion and believes his side are capable of pulling off a shock result. However, Salisbury, who are 42 places above Maidstone in the non-league ladder, will present a tough challenge for Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume's side.

Bowden-Brown said: "It will be a marvellous

day out for the fans. We have never been in the second round of the FA Trophy since we reformed so it's a day the supporters and myself will be looking forward to. It will be a massive day for the club.

"With cup games you never know what can happen. If decisions go for us and we can play like we know we can, and did against Bromley, then who knows."

The FA Trophy clash at Salisbury means this Saturday's Ryman Premier League game against Bognor Regis Town will be rearranged.

FOOTBALL



UNITED: Maidstone United captain Jay Saunders (pictured) insists the players are prepared to battle on

Saunders behind stance not to pay January wages

STONES captain Jay Saunders vows the club's players are prepared to battle on despite their wages being suspended during January, **writes Tom Howard.**

Maidstone United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown announced wages would be halted at a meeting between players and staff two weeks ago, following several postponements caused by the weather.

With just two games being played at home since Boxing Day, finances have been tight for the Stones and Bowden-Brown confirmed the club's players wouldn't be paid, but will get January's wages at the end of the season.

Central midfielder Saunders, who is in his second year as Maidstone captain, insists the players are united behind the club and the 30-year-old believes none of the playing staff will leave as a result of not being paid.

He told Yourmaidstone: "I think all the boys have accepted it and it's just one of those things. We've understood what the chairman has said to us and the boys have stuck by it. The chairman's asked for a bit of patience so we are all sticking together. It won't affect us on the pitch."

After a battling performance during last week's 3-0 FA Trophy defeat against Histon, Saunders is adamant his side have the potential to finish the season in the Ryman Premier League play-offs, despite being five points adrift of the top five following Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Boreham Wood.

Saunders said: "If we can take the performance against Histon into the league then we should be able to push on and make the play-offs. I think reaching the play-offs is our goal now. I think with the squad we got and if we play like we did against Histon we can comfortably beat teams in this league."

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
1 Dartford	21	16	4	1	+41	52
2 Hastings United	25	12	4	9	+6	40
3 Kingstonian	23	12	3	8	+3	39
4 Tooting & Mitcham	23	10	5	8	+3	35
5 Wealdstone	18	9	7	2	+5	34
6 Sutton United	22	10	3	9	+10	33
7 Boreham Wood	21	10	3	8	+7	33
8 Ashford Town (Middx)	24	8	9	7	-1	33
9 Horsham	21	9	5	7	+7	32
10 Canvey Island	22	9	4	9	+2	31
11 AFC Hornchurch	22	8	7	7	+2	31
12 Maidstone United	22	8	5	9	-2	29
13 Harrow Borough	23	7	7	9	-3	28
14 Avelley	21	7	5	9	+1	26
15 Tonbridge Angels	22	7	5	10	-6	26
16 Cray Wanderers	25	7	4	14	-19	25
17 Hendon	19	7	3	9	-3	24
18 Carshalton Athletic	20	6	6	8	-7	24
19 Margate	21	6	6	9	-11	24
20 Billericay Town	19	5	7	7	-4	22
21 Bognor Regis Town	23	4	8	11	-14	20
22 Waltham Abbey	21	4	6	11	-17	18

FIXTURES

(Saturday): FA TROPHY: v Salisbury City v Maidstone United

Penalty scuppers hopes of closing in on play-offs

FOOTBALL

Maidstone United 0 Boreham Wood 1

A FIRST half penalty from Mario Noto condemned a below par Maidstone to a disappointing 1-0 defeat at Homelands.

After pushing Conference side Histon hard in the FA Trophy last Tuesday night, the Stones were hoping to reproduce a similar battling display against Boreham Wood.

That never materialised, and when Stones goalkeeper Jamie Turner was adjudged to have upended Lee Allinson on the edge of the area and the referee immediately pointed to the spot, the writing was on the wall. Noto confidently fired the spot-kick into the net to give his side the lead on 20 minutes.

Wood could have extended their lead shortly after, but Leon Hunter's diving header was deflected wide. The Stones finally created their first chance on the half hour when a Nick Barnes cross found James Pinnock, but he could only head into the hands of goalkeeper Tony Tucker.

Maidstone improved in the second-half, but it was the visitors that looked most likely to find the net. The home side were caught on the break, which allowed Inih Effiong to run through on goal, but he was unable to find a way past Turner.

Minutes later Maidstone wasted a chance to net an equaliser as Wood failed to clear their lines and a goalmouth scramble ensued. First Barnes' effort was blocked, but the rebound fell to Peter Hawkins, who blazed over from five yards.



MISSED CHANCE: Peter Hawkins (pictured) wasted Maidstone's best chance to level the score

Maidstone came closer in the final ten minutes, but Pinnock's weak shot past goalkeeper Tucker was stopped by the mud in the goalmouth and cleared by the Boreham Wood defence.

The visitors had a golden chance to wrap up the points in the final minute, but once again Turner was on hand to stop Allinson's effort.

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Mark Stimson discusses his hopes for Gillingham's trio of new signings

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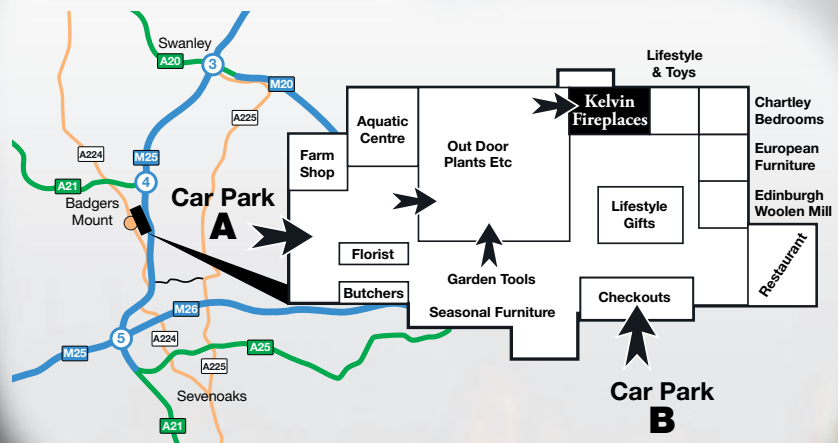
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She is extremely happy with their work and says they are the most polite and considerate workmen she has ever had the pleasure to meet.

Mrs K Moller, Romford.

“Thank you for the tradesmen you sent that replaced the windows and doors to my bungalow. Not only are they first class tradesmen and so helpful but they cleaned up after every job.

Mrs E K Fuller, Bridge, Kent.

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